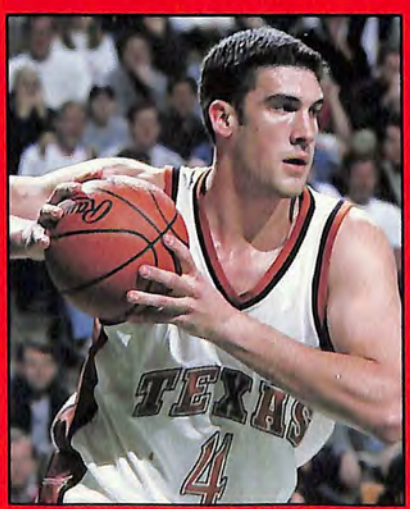
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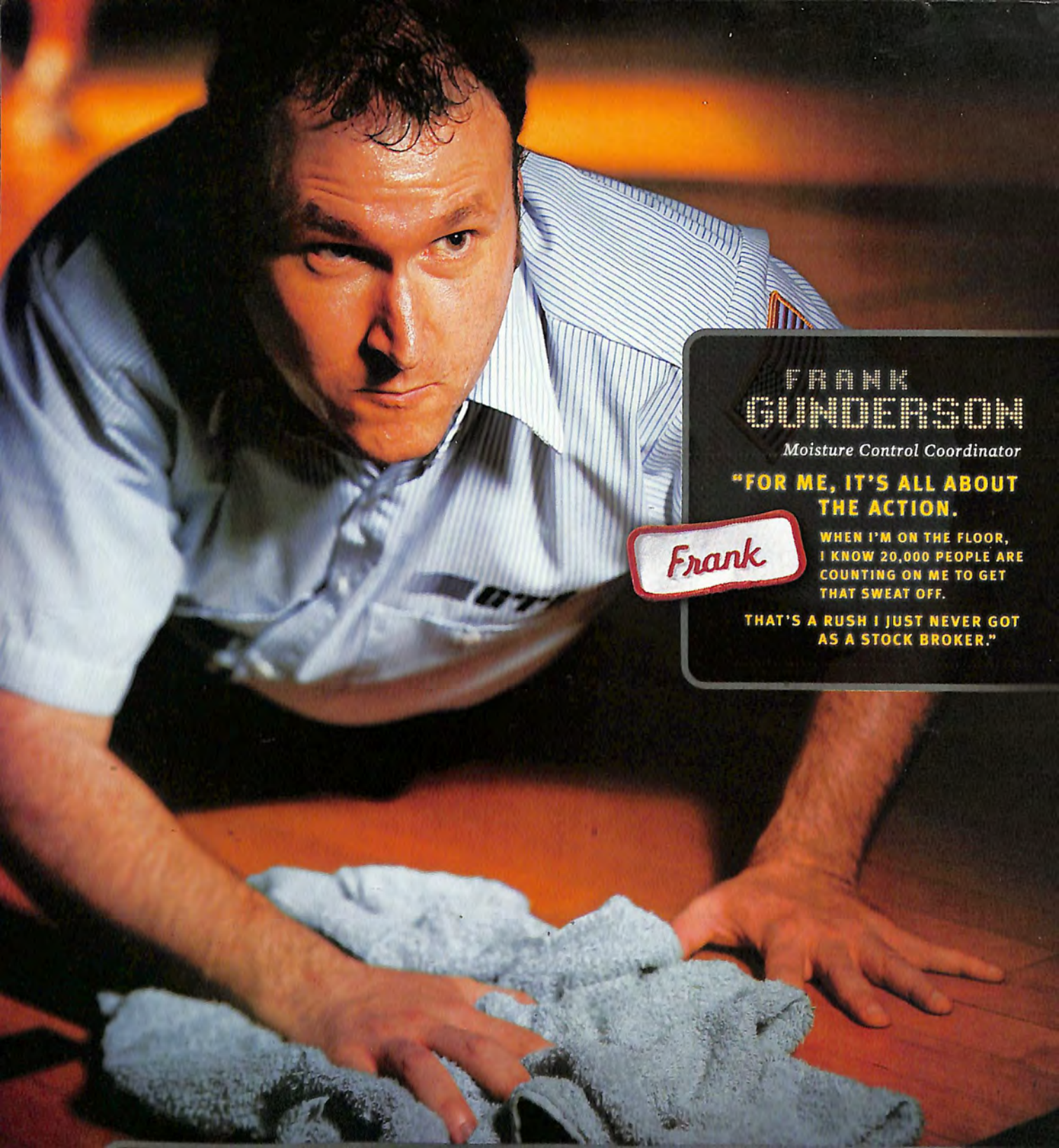


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Letter from the Managing Editor

Days after Connecticut beat Duke and was crowned national champion for the 1998-99 season—and I like to point out that last year's yearbook picked UConn No. 1 and Duke No. 2—the group of editors who constitute our college basketball planning team began work on the 2000 season and, more specifically, this annual preview issue. We analyzed what we did well over the course of the season. We analyzed what we could have done better, and we looked for modifications, changes and improvements, sometimes tweaks and sometimes complete makeovers, of our products.

But it all began and, frankly, ended with one simple question on which we focused: How can we improve the products that we bring to you, our readers?

That's not an easy answer to come by. But through talking with readers by phone, communicating with them via e-mail, reading letters that are sent to us, reviewing the survey that we include in each year's preview and by our sheer sense, we're able to draw some conclusions.

Hence, we're confident you will like the changes we've made to this year's edition of the College Basketball Yearbook.

The biggest change to this year's preview is what's not here. Despite its strong appeal in some areas of the country and with its group of fans, we have decided to discontinue providing women's basketball coverage. Although we provided increased coverage in the past two editions, the number of pages we were able to provide for women's teams seemed only to scratch the surface. To provide more space for women's basketball, it would have been necessary to cut back even further the number of pages devoted to the men's teams. So rather than offer limited coverage of both women's and men's basketball, we decided to provide the best coverage possible for men.

So what does "best" coverage mean?

From our point of view, it means providing more preview information. By redesigning some of our team and conference preview pages, we have been able to increase the information for our Division I previews.

It also means providing the most accurate schedules available in any college basketball yearbook, a seemingly simple objective but one that is actually not so simple. At this writing, down to the 11th hour in our production deadline, we're awaiting some school and conference schedules to be released.

Also, you'll find the schedules in a new place this year. We have altered the design of the yearbook, moving the schedules from the back of the book and integrated team schedules into the team preview. The hope, the intention, is to provide one easy place to find all the key information for your favorite team.

Finally, another improvement we've made is to add to our coverage of recruiting, the ultimate "preview" in college basketball. We have discovered that college hoops fans don't want to know just what's ahead for this season, but also what's coming two or three years down the road.

As always, we hope you enjoy the changes, but regardless of whether you like them, I hope to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Feel free to contact us at smeyerhoff@sportingnews.com, or fill out the survey on pages 167 and 168.

Steve J. Meyerhoff

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1999 on-sale dates:

Baseball	February 16	Hockey	August 31
NFL Draft	March 16	Pro Basketball	September 14
College Football	June 22	College Basketball	October 5
Pro Football	July 6	Fantasy Baseball	December 28
Fantasy Football	July 13	Stock-Car Racing	December 28

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BOB LEVERONE / TSN

SCOUT

the natio

By Mike DeCourcy

They were pretty doggone good a year ago, and most of what changed was for the better. All-American **Mateen Cleaves** still is in control at point guard. **Tom Izzo**, equally pugnacious and patient, still is in charge as coach. Wing **Morris Peterson** remains available to score points, and he has a lot more company than a year ago. The lineup that returns nearly intact won 33 of 38 games, championships of the Pearl Harbor Classic, the Big Ten regular season and tournament, and the NCAA Tournament's Midwest Regional. It finished the season ranked No. 2 by the Associated Press.

There is no other logical choice to begin this year No. 1, and no other comfortable prediction to finish as national champion.

There's just one thing. This may seem a curious question, but could Michigan State have been too good last year to be good enough this year?

It's hardly a secret Duke in 1991 and 1992 became the only school to repeat as NCAA champion since the close of the UCLA dynasty.

It may come as a surprise, though, only two of the past 15 NCAA titlists (Duke 1991, Kentucky 1998) went from losing in the Final Four to winning it all. These are not the kind of odds to engender confidence in the Spartans, whose trip to the Final Four last season was their first since 1979.

Like every Division I team, Michigan State has issues to settle as it navigates toward the NCAA Tournament.

The basics:

1) Replacing center **Antonio Smith**, a massive physical and emotional presence throughout his career;

2) Blending gifted wing newcomers **Mike Chappell** and **Jason Richardson** with Peterson and two-year starter **Charlie Bell**;

3) Getting more consistent jumpshooting from Cleaves.

Those issues can be handled. The Spartans are one of only three teams, though, that must deal with this odd feeling of attaining excellence without achieving greatness.

A lot of champions (Indiana 1987, UCLA 1995, Kentucky 1996) make great use of humiliating, premature defeats in the previous year's tournament as motivation during their title runs. Reaching the Final Four permits a level of satisfaction during the offseason.

"One thing we need to do, that we've taken steps toward doing—after we lost in the Final Four, we had a team meeting, all the guys got together, and we talked about what we wanted to do next year," Peterson says. "I think anybody would enjoy the success, but Antonio told us not to rest on what we did last year. Everybody is still hungry."

The No. 1 ranking that apparently will be theirs by acclaim will make it even more difficult to maintain that desire.

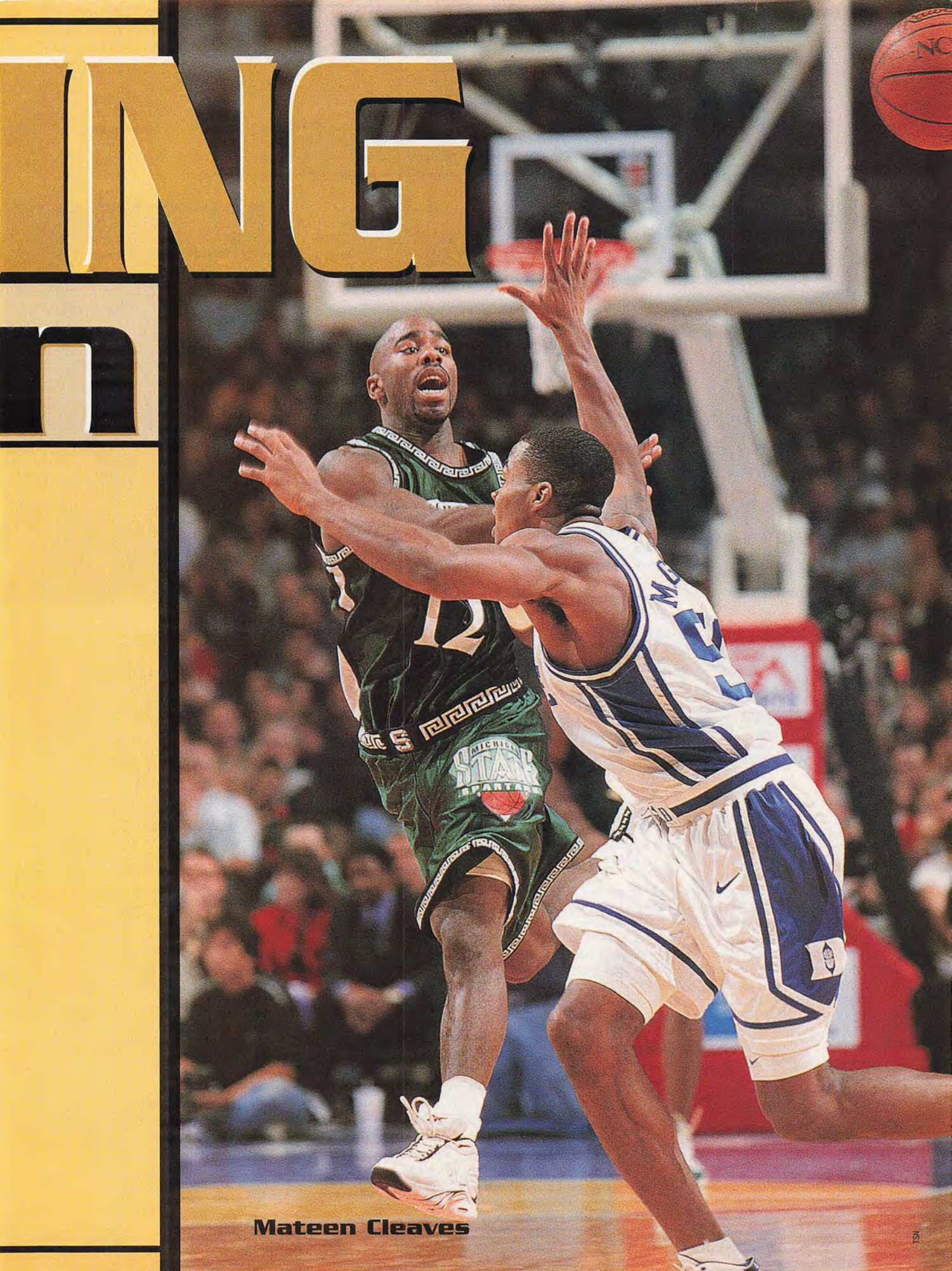
Whether it's the pressure, becoming a target or overconfidence, it has become almost routine for the top team to lose its ranking before December. Some get it back eventually.

"Man, it's going to be tough," Peterson says. "I couldn't sit here and lie and say it's not.

"Last year, we started off No. 4, and we got a little big-headed. As the season progressed, we started taking it one game at a time, being patient, and we started winning. We got as high as No. 2, and we kept playing hard."

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Mateen Cleaves

SCOUTING the nation



TSN

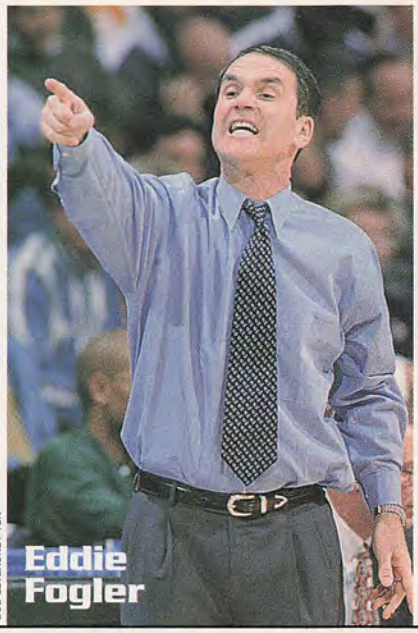
Avoiding the spring fall

These coaches better work on their winning percentages this winter to avoid becoming statistics next spring:

Bruiser Flint, Massachusetts. Handed the second-most thankless job in the history of college coaching—replacing John Calipari after the Massachusetts Miracle was slightly less difficult than following **John Wooden**—Flint has suffered. He was bequeathed a couple of useless big men (**Lari Ketner, Ajmal Basit**), and he has been unable to recruit a competent point guard. Bruiser needs a pain-free season.

Wayne Morgan, Long Beach State. Morgan has good timing, if nothing else. Syracuse made the Final Four (and made Morgan an attractive candidate) just when the 49ers were shopping for a coach. Now, when it looks as though he needs a big year, he has the most talented team in the Big West.

Eddie Fogler, South Carolina. Fogler's personality hasn't won him many friends, and last year he didn't win games, either. How many players can leave the state before Gamecocks fans push for a change?



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Crusade for recognition

Off the top of your head, you know that North Carolina has been going to the NCAA Tournament since before the personal computer was invented and that Kentucky and Duke were the teams of the '90s. But the identity of at least one reigning college dynasty might escape your recollection.

Valpo.

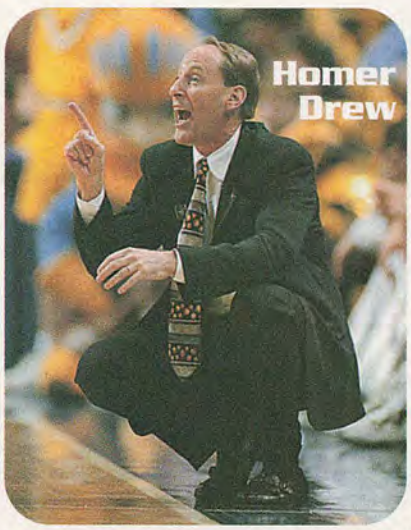
That name may not inspire the sort of terror that "Arizona" or "Kansas" might, but Valparaiso is riding a streak that ranks among the most impressive in recent NCAA history.

The Crusaders have been to four consecutive NCAA Tournaments and are favored to make it five in a row. If they again win the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, they'll be the fourth mid-major school in the past 20 years to make five straight NCAA appearances and only the second to claim five straight automatic bids. North Carolina A&T earned seven in 1982-88.

In fact, the Crusaders have won the Mid-Continent tournament five straight years, but the league forfeited its bid in 1995 because of a changing membership.

Coach **Homer Drew** says one goal would be for the Crusaders to gain enough recognition from their success and an improved schedule (Houston, Minnesota, Notre Dame) to merit an at-large NCAA bid. As it is, they annually face the most pressure-packed game the college level offers: the "win-and-you're-in" league tournament final.

"When that game comes, we really don't discuss a lot about the pressure," Drew says. "The media take care of that."



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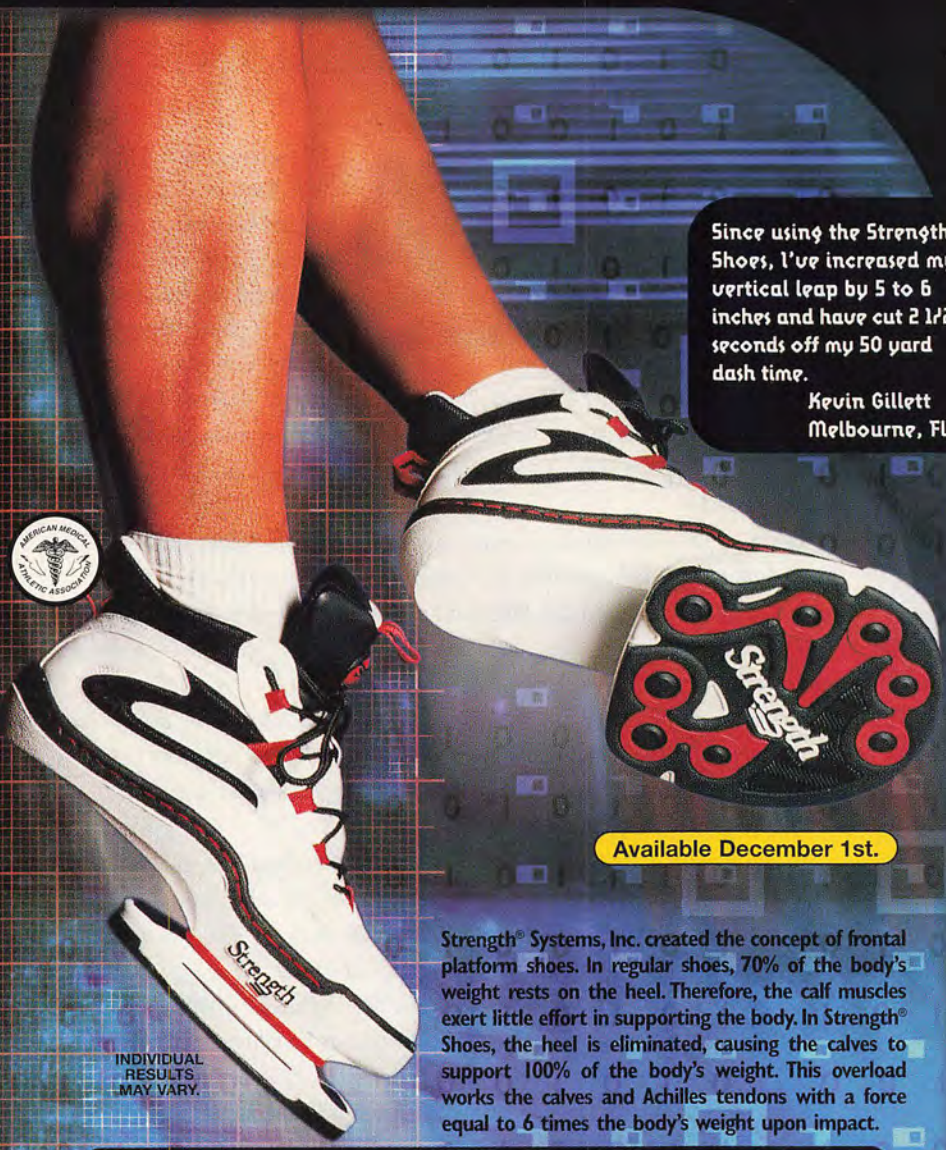
Drew thinks talent makes Valpo successful, and he does not credit himself with that—even though he fathered the best player in school history, guard **Bryce Drew**.

"I think you have to give credit to our staff,"' Homer Drew says. "Steve Flint and Scott Drew have done a wonderful job of recruiting."

The Valpo coaches recognized that most American big players chose high-major schools, so they went to Europe and collected big men such as 6-11 **Zoran Viskovic**, who finished his career in an NCAA loss to Maryland last March. Valparaiso has put 13 players in the pros in recent years, although only Bryce Drew went to the NBA. Having decent size made it possible for Valpo to compete up front and claim victories over Seton Hall, South Carolina, Mississippi and Florida State the past two years.

It might have seemed strange for a school in the heart of basketball country to venture so far from home to find players, but Valpo fans were not offended. "They were thrilled," Homer Drew says, "because my first couple of years, our tallest guy was 6-6. When all of a sudden they saw 7-footers and 6-11's, they really liked that."

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William Avery

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Don't be blue, DEVILS

Duke is justifiably proud to have set a record with four players selected in the first round of June's NBA draft—and justifiably anguished that three of those players had eligibility to spare.

It isn't over for the Blue Devils, though—not if the six McDonald's All-Americans left on the roster deliver, and not if history is an accurate guide.

Consider what became of these programs that lost multiple first-round picks in this decade:

UNLV, 1992. The Runnin' Rebels saw **Larry Johnson**, **Stacey Augmon** and **Greg Anthony** depart after their 34-1 rampage through 1990-91, but the arrival of shooting guard **J.R. Rider** and emergence of center **Elmore Spencer** lifted the successor to a 26-2 mark and undefeated Big West Conference season. Unfortunately, sanctions kept that team from the NCAA Tournament.

Arkansas, 1993. With the **Todd Day-Lee Mayberry-Oliver Miller** triumvirate gone, the Razorbacks appeared doomed. Instead, they restocked in 1992-93 with **Scotty Thurman**, **Corliss Williamson** and **Corey Beck** and reached the NCAA Sweet 16, finishing 22-9.

Kentucky, 1997. Although UK lost **Antoine Walker**, **Tony Delk** and **Walter McCarty** after their contributions to the 1996 national champions, there was enough left to produce a 35-5 season and a return to the national championship game. The Wildcats lost to Arizona in overtime.

One team that didn't fit the profile was 1991 Michigan, which went 14-15 after the departures of **Rumeal Robinson**, **Loy Vaught** and **Terry Mills**. The Wolverines were back in the Final Four in 1992, with the arrival of the Fab Five freshman class. Duke hopes **Jason Williams**, **Michael Dunleavy**, **Casey Sanders** and **Carlos Boozer** are fab enough to avoid even a temporary decline.

MISSING THE POINT?

In previous years, work-a-day point guards such as **Anthony Epps** of Kentucky, **Eric Harris** of Minnesota and **Lazarus Sims** of Syracuse reached the Final Four. But 1999 suggested a team needs a star at the point to make it.


Steve Logan

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

On the teams rated in TSN's top 16, there are 10 McDonald's All-America point guards, including two at Florida, and that leaves out established standouts **Scoonie Penn** of Ohio State and **Doc Robinson** of Auburn. The heat is on these players to show a regular guy can still pilot his team to greatness:

Saul Smith, Kentucky. Coach **Tubby Smith** chose not to recruit point guards last year because he thought that Saul, his son, could handle the job and that there were more great points in the class of 2000. Saul understands the position and shoots well, but he isn't strong or creative.

Michael McDonald, Stanford. Valuable development time was lost to an injury last season, but McDonald is quicker than his predecessor, **Arthur Lee**, and passed for 49 assists in just 261 minutes as a healthy freshman. This will be his first time in charge.


Saul Smith

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Steve Logan, Cincinnati. Logan will have to hustle (literally) to hold off the Bearcats' McDonald's All-American, freshman **Kenny Satterfield**. Logan is an outstanding deep shooter and rarely turns it over, but he's so determined to be under control he doesn't push the offensive pace. The Bearcats need to run more.

Earl Watson, UCLA. Watson got on-the-job training when **Baron Davis** was injured and has been solid throughout his two years with the Bruins. But with unpredictable **JaRon Rush** on the wing and unsound **Jerome Moiso** up front, this team needs an unflappable leader.

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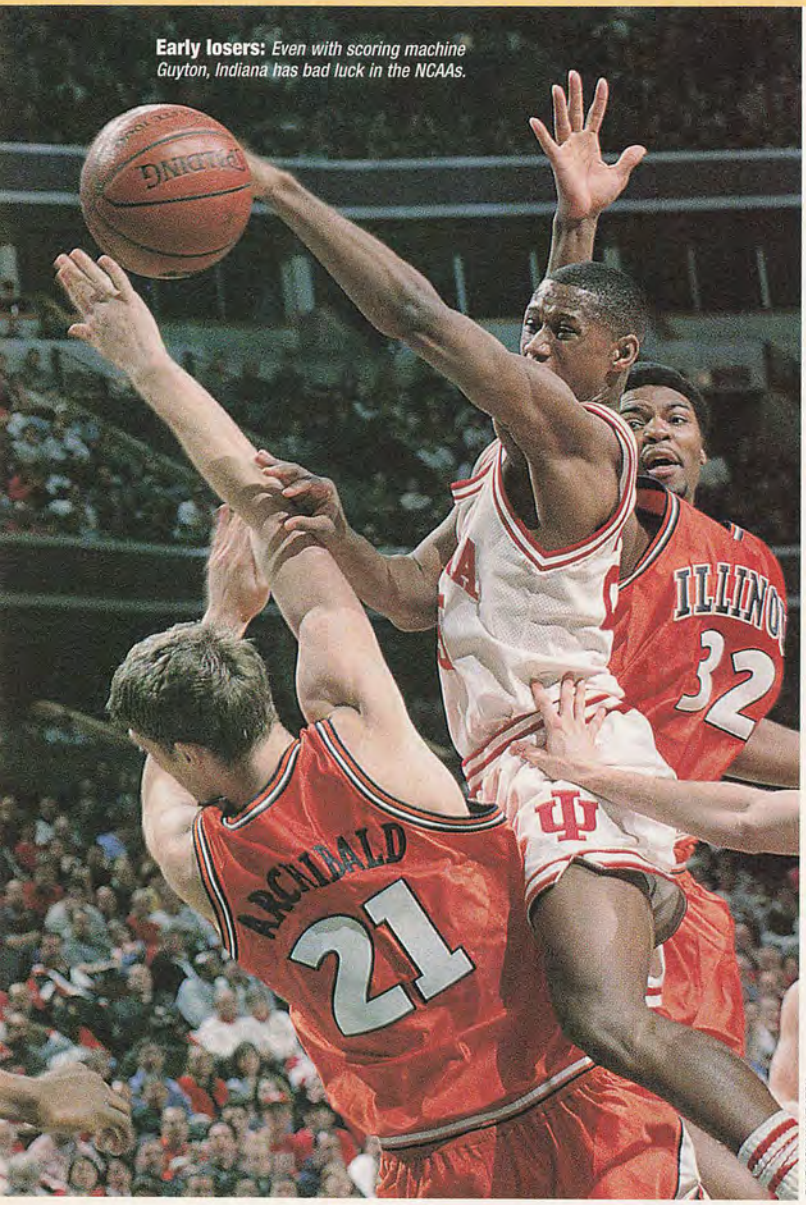
Where is Joe High Top going to school? What's the latest on State U.'s class? TSN's Mike DeCourcy and Brick Oettinger, the two foremost authorities on college recruiting, have the latest on the Class of 2000.

Sports Bahr

Is Florida the new power in the SEC? Can Kansas rebound? Is this the year for the Spartans? Join in sports' daily arguments with TSN's Chris Bahr.

The Sporting News online

SCOUTING the nation



Early losers: *Even with scoring machine Guyton, Indiana has bad luck in the NCAAs.*

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

A MARCH Sadness

Almost everybody ends March with a defeat. Some teams keep ending their Marches when they're supposed to be getting started:

Kansas. Although the Jayhawks won 85 percent of their games the past three seasons, they were 4-3 in the NCAA Tournament. KU has been especially disappointing when seeded No. 1. Four times in the '90s the Jayhawks were top seeds, and those teams won just six tournament games.

Indiana. The Hoosiers have fared poorly recently in the NCAAs. They are 2-5 in the past five tournaments after reacing the Sweet 16 in 1994.

Cincinnati. It took a poor call to send the Bearcats home in 1997 and a fortunate shot in 1998. In 1999, it took Temple. With an .800 winning percentage in the past three years, they should have done better. They need the Sweet 16 this time, at least.

Villanova. The Wildcats were pleased just to make it last year, though goodness knows why. The tournament has been a 'Nova nightmare. In the past five years, they won two of every three regular-season games but only two of their six tournament games.

New Mexico. There is a second weekend to the NCAA Tournament, though you'd never know it as a follower of the Lobos. Despite a 102-30 mark the past four years, they were eliminated in the second round each time.

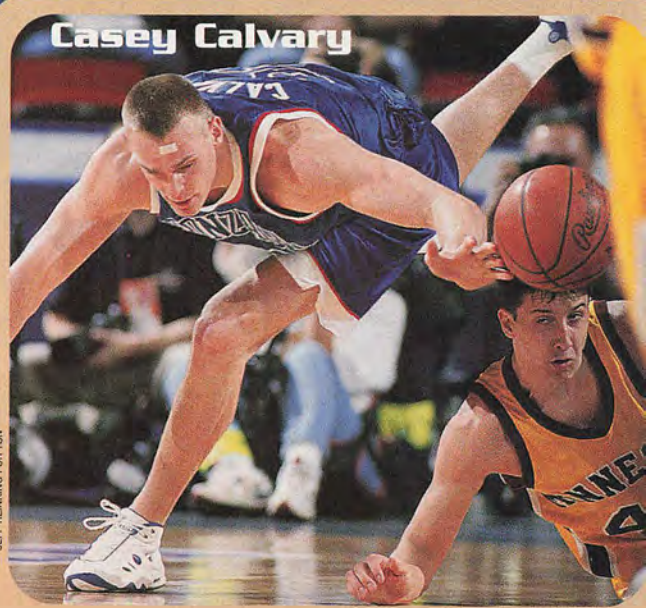
SOLDIERS OF GOOD FORTUNE

Having a guy around who will do the little things tends to make a team look lucky. These guys join UConn's **Kevin Freeman** among the high priests of hustle:

Kris Lang, North Carolina. If **Bill Guthridge** ever saw Lang make a mistake, he probably would faint. Lang is fluid and forceful, the ideal combination for a power forward.

Mario Bland, Miami. He averages 6.0 rebounds per game but squeezes out another half-dozen or so for teammates by keeping his oversized body on over-matched opponents.

Casey Calvary, Gonzaga. It was no accident he was involved in the Bulldogs' two biggest plays of the NCAA Tournament. Calvary always turns up near the ball. Funny how that happens.



JEFF RENKING FOR TSN

ACHIN' TO BREAK OUT

These players could be on the verge of excellence:

Mark Karcher, forward, Temple. He was brilliant at times last season, still shaking off the effects of a year of ineligibility. Karcher should be in better shape and improve his shooting accuracy now that the rust is gone.

Shane Battier, forward, Duke. It's time for Battier to go from taking charges to taking jump shots. The Devils need him as an offensive force. We dare you to doubt him.

Marcus Hill, guard, Tulsa. Hill made 20 more three-point shots than regular baskets last season. If he becomes nearly as proficient inside the arc (.359) as outside (.414), he can be one of the WAC's best.

Tony Harvey, guard, Utah. After missing nine games because of suspension, Harvey became a key ingredient in the Utes' resurgence. He will have more playmaking responsibilities with Andre Miller gone; an assist/turnover ratio of nearly 3-to-1 suggests he's ready.

Vincent Yarbrough, forward, Tennessee. The best wing players in the Carolina-style system almost always make a huge jump as sophomores, when they become more comfortable. Yarbrough has special talent.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

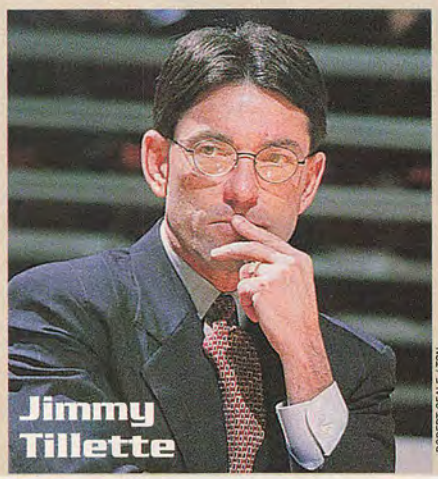
Mark Karcher

Stairway to Heaven

The deluge of coach firings in the past two springs has made head coaches of a bunch of red-hot (former) assistants. Big-time programs making changes this year may be looking more often to the mid- and low-major ranks for candidates:

Perry Watson, Detroit. There's a feeling Watson is comfortable at home trying to enhance the Titans' prestige. And he is. But consecutive 25-win seasons that included NCAA Tournament advancement will get him a look from someone.

Mike Brey, Delaware. He has made such a great situation for himself at Delaware, Brey can afford to be patient. He won't move until a prime job opens, but he'll move eventually.


ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Jimmy Tillette

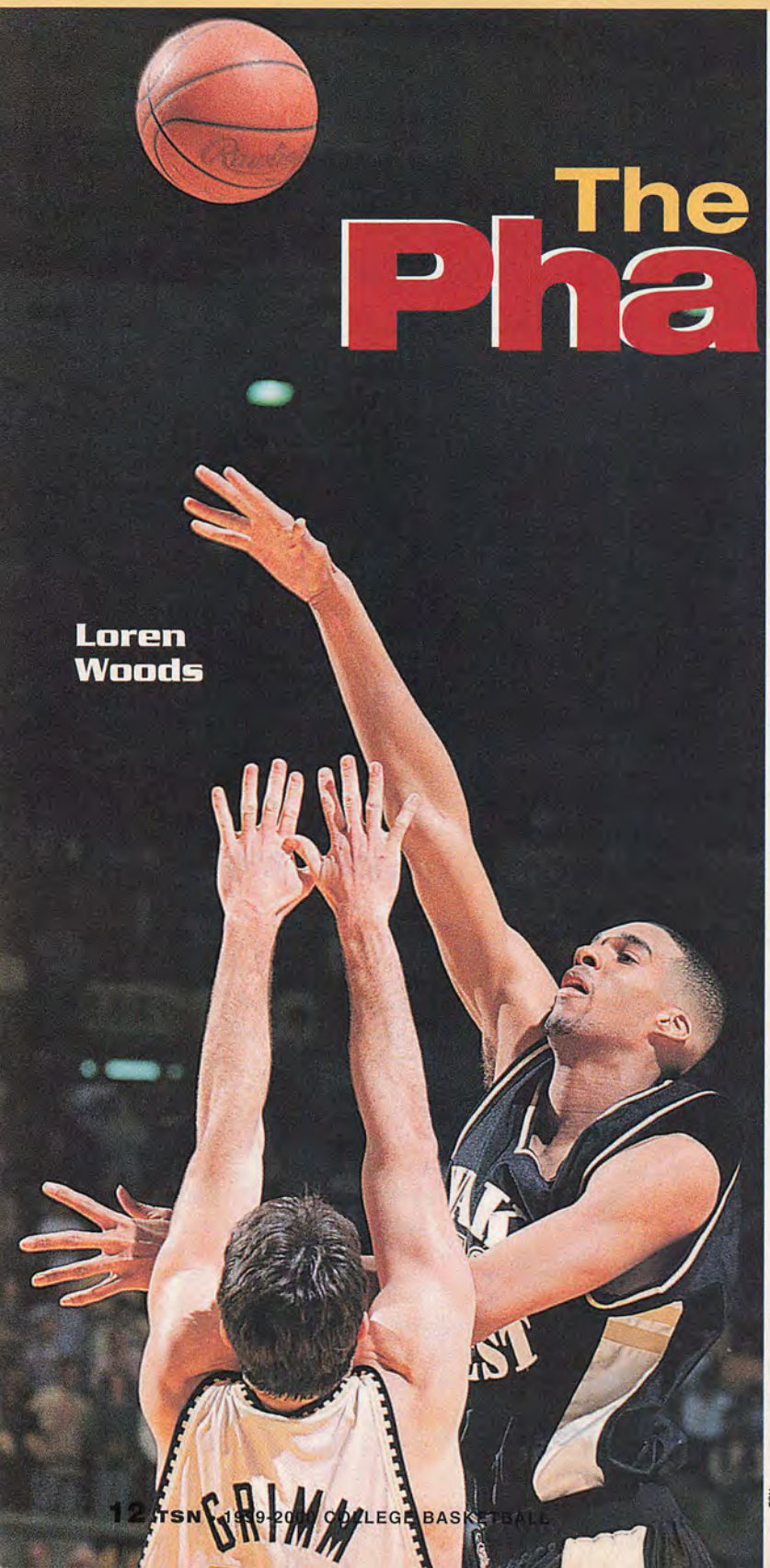
Gary Waters, Kent. Turning this dead-end job into a launching pad is Waters' second-most impressive feat. The most impressive was designing a defense that held Miami All-American Wally Szczerbiak to 4-of-17 shooting just before he ransacked the NCAA Tournament.

Jimmy Tillette, Samford. In two years, Tillette gained a lot of believers. His second Bulldogs team went 24-6 and served itself up to St. John's in the NCAA Tournament—the school's first trip. Tillette is going places.

Dickey Nutt, Arkansas State. His brother Houston already hit the big time—as football coach at Arkansas. But Dickey can brag about something his brother can't: coaching in an NCAA Tournament.

SCOUTING the nation

The Phantom Menaces



We've waited longer to see these players than to see the latest "Star Wars" episode:

Schea Cotton, 6-6 forward, Alabama. Cotton committed to Long Beach State, UCLA and NC State and played in prep school and junior college before finally being declared eligible by the NCAA. When we last saw Cotton, he had awesome physical talent but an average jumper and no clue about shot selection. Of course, that was 1996. "I think we'll find out," Alabama coach **Mark Gottfried** says. "We've got high expectations, but he's the kind of player that welcomes that."

Ajou Ajou Deng, 6-11 forward, Connecticut. Deng was expected to join UConn in 1997-98 but spent another year in high school, then sat last year as a partial qualifier and starred in the Huskies' practices. Lots of half-decent players dominate workouts because there is no pressure. (Remember the difference Souleymane Wane was to make?) It will be interesting to gauge Deng's impact.

Loren Woods, 7-0 center, Arizona. You haven't really seen Woods yet. Not the one that was promised when he was a McDonald's All-American, and not the one Arizona insiders insist you'll see now. He hasn't played since midway through his sophomore year at Wake Forest, where he never played as though he meant it. Woods gained strength, appears more confident and will be a key to the Wildcats' season.

YEAR OF THE JUCO (NOT)

Last year was perhaps the best ever for junior-college recruits. Don't expect these top JC transfers to match what **Steve Francis** did for Maryland or **Bootsy Thornton** for St. John's, but they should help:

Marcus Griffin, 6-10 center, Illinois. A McDonald's All-American, Griffin may need some time to regain that level and must ignore expectations of instant dominance. Junior colleges tend not to emphasize post players.

Paul McPherson, 6-3 guard, DePaul. A physically overwhelming wing who routinely muscled his way to points at Kennedy-King JC. McPherson's main problem with the Blue Demons will be fitting into a talented lineup.

Jamaal Tinsley, 6-2 guard, Iowa State. Tinsley handles the ball as though it's a part of his hand, has terrific moves and can score from the point guard position. He likes to run, though, and coach **Larry Eustachy**'s teams are rarely in a hurry.

Terry Black, 6-6 forward, Baylor. The only junior-college player invited to try out for the U.S. World University Games team, Black was the star of last season's national champions at Indian Hills (Iowa). He will not look to lose now.

Kenny Dye, 6-3 guard, UNLV. The departure of star **Shawn Marion** leaves the Rebels hungrily searching for a new scoring threat. Dye will not hesitate to fire.

TSN

Top 10 questions of 2000



JEFF REINKING FOR TSN

Teddy Dupay

1. Can Connecticut's Huskies repeat?
Answer: Of course they can, but better teams have tried and failed. UConn fans should enjoy their reign. They waited long enough to reach the top.

2. What early draft entry will be missed most by his team?
Answer: Lamar Odom, without a doubt. Not only would he have put Rhode Island in the top 20, but he also came closest of anyone to sticking around.

3. Mateen Cleaves or Scoonie Penn?
Answer: Steak or lobster? Infiniti or Lexus? Hoffman or DeNiro? There's no wrong choice, is there?

4. How good is Auburn, really?
Answer: We never really figured that out last season, and another marshmallow schedule will preclude that again—until the NCAA Tournament. We're sure the Tigers are very good. But we're not sure they're the goods.

5. Will John Chaney ever coach in the Final Four?
Answer: He's one of five coaches of teams rated in TSN's top 16 who hasn't made it, although he has been to four regional finals. This group may change that. If forward Lamont Barnes plays it straight, the Owls could rank among the most powerful teams.

6. Can Teddy Dupay and Brett Nelson co-exist in Florida's backcourt?
Answer: Two McDonald's All-American point guards are a lot for one team to handle. Nelson figures to be running the offense. It wouldn't be a shock if Dupay struggled under the pressure of being more or less a full-time shooter.

7. How do you improve on 20 wins a year?
Answer: This is what coaches Tom Crean (Marquette), Steve Alford (Iowa) and Quin Snyder (Missouri) face in their new jobs. The controlling interests at each school perceived a lack of progress, particularly that recruiting had collapsed. So that's the key—win a few big battles before November.

8. Who's going to redecorate his apartment with all those Player of the Year trophies?
Answer: Forward Chris Porter will put up some nifty numbers for Auburn, and playing on the nation's best team should help Mateen Cleaves the way it did Elton Brand last season. But here's a like-the-odds bet on DePaul's Quentin Richardson.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Khalid El-Amin

9. Will the ACC regain its position as the premier conference?
Answer: Not this year, and not even if it wins that silly challenge series against the Big Ten cooked up by ESPN. The Big Ten and SEC will be better, and the Big East can make an argument in its favor.

10. Where should you be on the eve of the next millennium?
Answer: Nebraska visits Minnesota's spectacular Williams Arena at 7 p.m. December 31. Can't think of a better place to spend New Year's Eve than The Barn.

HOW they stack UP

No. 1 Michigan State

Michigan State is the chosen one. It's not because the Spartans have the most future NBA players on their roster. It's not because coach Tom Izzo has the most complete team. He even lost his top assistant, Tom Crean, who became coach at Marquette. Michigan State is No. 1 after winning its second straight Big Ten title and earning a berth in the 1999 Final Four because of senior point guard Mateen Cleaves. Although his scoring fell a bit last year, he still showed he is capable of hitting the big shot. He will log lots of minutes—good news for a cache of wing players that ranks among the nation's best. Players such as Charlie Bell, Morris Peterson, Lorenzo Guess, Brandon Smith, David Thomas, Duke transfer Mike Chappell and hyped freshman Jason Richardson will have the luxury of converting Cleaves' offerings into buckets. It will be important for them to shoot sweetly—and slash to the basket—with Jason Klein gone. But don't underestimate the toughness—mental and physical—that Cleaves brings to the roster. It will be especially important for the front-line guys to be rugged, as rebounding slack must be picked up with rough-and-tumble Antonio Smith gone. Izzo will look to veterans Andre Hutson and A.J. Granger, along with freshmen Adam Ballinger, Jason Andreas, Adam Wolfe and Al Anagonye, to crash the boards. If they do, reserve a spot for Michigan State at the 2000 Final Four in Indianapolis, where Cleaves and Co. may be the one.

** Predicted to make NCAA Tournament*

RK.	TEAM/COACH	98-99 C	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG
2.	*Cincinnati/Bob Huggins	26-5	C Kenyon Martin	75
	Skinny: Guard play—what else?—is key for mega-talented team.			
3.	*Connecticut/Jim Calhoun	28-2	G Khalid El-Amin	55
	Skinny: El-Amin must be a leader, and C Ajou Ajou Deng needs to be blended in.			
4.	*Auburn/Cliff Ellis	27-3	F Chris Porter	102
	Skinny: The nation got a taste of things to come during last year's surprise run.			
5.	*Arizona/Lute Olson	22-6	F Michael Wright	89
	Skinny: Can Jason Gardner be the next Mike Bibby? If so, look out.			
6.	*North Carolina/Bill Guthridge	24-9	G Ed Cota	39
	Skinny: With good guard play, this team may make Final Four.			
7.	*Ohio State/Jim O'Brien	23-8	G Scoonie Penn	65
	Skinny: It's vital that C Ken Johnson continue to develop.			
8.	*Temple/John Chaney	21-10	F Mark Karcher	31
	Skinny: Deep frontcourt and veteran guard play make the Owls soar.			
9.	*Stanford/Mike Montgomery	25-6	F Mark Madsen	90
	Skinny: Michael McDonald must solidify the point guard spot.			
10.	*Illinois/Lon Kruger	14-18	G Cory Bradford	68
	Skinny: Illini's hopes buoyed by arrival of talented big men.			
11.	*Florida/Billy Donovan	20-8	F Mike Miller	97
	Skinny: Gators love to run, but someone (Donnell Harvey?) must rebound.			
12.	*Kentucky/Tubby Smith	25-8	C Jamaal Magloire	98
	Skinny: Despite questions at guard, never underestimate the Wildcats.			
13.	*Kansas/Roy Williams	22-9	C Eric Chenowith	46
	Skinny: Jayhawks won't have trouble scoring, but they may struggle to defend.			
14.	*Duke/Mike Krzyzewski	32-1	F Shane Battier	40
	Skinny: Crop of talented newcomers will take a month or so to blend.			
15.	*UCLA/Steve Lavin	22-8	F JaRon Rush	91
	Skinny: Earl Watson must be a vocal leader with Baron Davis gone.			
16.	*St. John's/Mike Jarvis	25-8	G Erick Barkley	57
	Skinny: Anthony Glover needs to bolster a depleted frontcourt.			

RK.	TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG
17.	*Utah/Rick Majerus	27-4	C Hanno Mottola	83
	Skinny: If a point guard emerges with Andre Miller gone, the Utes will be strong.			
18.	*Tennessee/Jerry Green	20-8	G Tony Harris	99
	Skinny: This may be the most talented SEC team. Will it play that way?			
19.	*Purdue/Gene Keady	19-12	G Jaraan Cornell	69
	Skinny: Team in turmoil must recapture the spirit it had at end of last season.			
20.	*Gonzaga/Mark Few	25-6	G Matt Santangelo	136
	Skinny: Confident, enthusiastic veteran crew wants to prove last year was real.			
21.	*Wake Forest/Dave Odom	16-13	G Robert O'Kelley	41
	Skinny: Deacons need to cut down on turnovers for big success.			
22.	*Texas/Rick Barnes	19-12	C Chris Mihm	47
	Skinny: Are you ready to rumble? The Longhorns are, headed by Mihm.			
23.	*DePaul/Pat Kennedy	17-12	G Quentin Richardson	76
	Skinny: Kennedy must effectively juggle a talented roster.			
24.	*Oklahoma State/Eddie Sutton	22-10	F Desmond Mason	48
	Skinny: Veteran unit led by strong guard play will benefit from Sutton's savvy.			
25.	*Miami (Fla.)/Leonard Hamilton	22-6	G/F Johnny Hemsley	56
	Skinny: Again, point guard play is the key.			
26.	*Georgia Tech/Bobby Cremins	15-15	C Alvin Jones	42
	Skinny: A lack of depth could undermine a program that has been off track.			
27.	*Syracuse/Jim Boeheim	21-11	C Etan Thomas	58
	Skinny: Lots of experience, but this team needs to show hunger.			
28.	*Oklahoma/Kelvin Sampson	20-10	F Eduardo Najera	49
	Skinny: Sooners may build on last year's surprise Sweet 16 run.			
29.	*Indiana/Bob Knight	22-10	G A.J. Guyton	70
	Skinny: Are the Hoosiers athletic enough to play with the elite?			
30.	*Arkansas/Nolan Richardson	22-10	G Brandon Dean	103
	Skinny: Hogs need a newcomer to help up front.			
31.	*Oregon/Ernie Kent	16-11	G Alex Scales	92
	Skinny: Scales and Frederick Jones need to be consistent go-to guys.			



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Jake Voskuhl

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Pepe Sanchez

Morris Peterson

TSN

HOW THEY STACK UP

RK.	TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG
32.	*Georgetown/Craig Esherick	15-15	C Ruben Boumtje Boumtje	58
	Skinny: Blend of old and new may allow Hoyas to play their old-style defense.			
33.	*Oregon State/Eddie Payne	13-14	G Deaundra Tanner	92
	Skinny: Plodding Beavers can't get caught in running game by athletic teams.			
34.	*Virginia/Pete Gillen	14-16	F Chris Williams	42
	Skinny: Slowly but surely, the Cavaliers are making a move.			
35.	*Missouri/Quin Snyder	20-8	G Keyon Dooling	49
	Skinny: Must adjust to up-tempo system and find some rebounders.			
36.	*Fresno State/Jerry Tarkanian	21-11	G Courtney Alexander	107
	Skinny: Need to find off-court harmony to allow talented roster to shine.			
37.	*Massachusetts/Bruiser Flint	14-16	G Monty Mack	32
	Skinny: The backcourt holds key to success for a team that flopped last year.			
38.	*Bradley/Jim Molinari	17-11	G Rob Dye	125
	Skinny: The Braves aren't pretty, but they know how to win.			
39.	*Louisville/Denny Crum	19-10	F Nate Johnson	77
	Skinny: F Tony Williams needs to provide leadership that has been lacking.			
40.	*New Mexico/Fran Fraschilla	24-8	G Lamont Long	84
	Skinny: It's vital that F Damion Walker play with passion and consistency.			
41.	*Akron/Dan Hipsher	18-9	G Jami Bosley	120
	Skinny: Backcourt duo of Bosley and Jimmal Ball is among the best.			
42.	*UNC-Charlotte/Bobby Lutz	22-10	G Diego Guevara	77
	Skinny: The 49ers need as many as four of their newcomers to stand out.			
43.	*Wisconsin/Dick Bennett	22-9	F Andy Kowske	70
	Skinny: Badgers can't struggle to score, which has been the case.			
44.	*Detroit/Perry Watson	24-5	G Rashad Phillips	123
	Skinny: Guard play again will make the Titans go, but the front line is iffy.			
45.	*Delaware/Mike Brey	25-5	F Mike Pegues	111
	Skinny: America East's most athletic team must rebound better.			
46.	*New Mexico State/Lou Henson	23-9	G Billy Keys	113
	Skinny: If Charles Gosa can be replaced, the Aggies again will reign in Big West.			
47.	Vanderbilt/Kevin Stallings	14-15	F Dan Langhi	100
	Skinny: Stallings will preach defense and better shot selection.			
48.	USC/Henry Bibby	15-12	C Brian Scalabrine	93
	Skinny: Trojans are athletic but need to find shooters.			
49.	South Florida/Seth Greenberg	14-14	F B.B. Waldon	79
	Skinny: C Scott Johnson's return from a knee injury will be a boon.			
50.	*UNLV/Billy Bayno	16-12	C Kaspars Kambala	84
	Skinny: There's talent, but the Rebels must learn to play together.			
51.	*Xavier/Skip Prosser	21-10	G Darnell Williams	34
	Skinny: With losses, the X-Men must rely on a committee approach.			
52.	*Tulsa/Bill Self	22-9	F Brandon Kurtz	107
	Skinny: Someone must do Michael Ruffin's dirty work for Hurricane to shine.			
53.	TCU/Billy Tubbs	19-10	F Marquise Gainous	108
	Skinny: If newcomers blend quickly, the Frogs may shock teams in the WAC.			
54.	*Siena/Paul Hewitt	25-5	G Marcus Faison	118
	Skinny: Few teams in the nation may be able to run-and-gun like the Saints.			
55.	Toledo/Stan Joplin	19-7	F Greg Stempin	120
	Skinny: After successful season, Rockets are starting to rebuild.			
56.	Long Beach State/Wayne Morgan	13-15	G Ramel Lloyd	113
	Skinny: The 49ers are loaded with talent, but will it achieve?			
57.	Michigan/Brian Ellerbe	12-19	F LaVell Blanchard	71
	Skinny: The Wolverines will go as far as their talented newcomers take them.			
58.	Mississippi State/Rick Stansbury	20-12	F Tang Hamilton	103
	Skinny: Stansbury needs to commit to the running game.			
59.	Maryland/Gary Williams	26-5	F Terence Morris	43
	Skinny: It's critical for Morris to become a go-to guy and be consistent.			
60.	Notre Dame/Matt Doherty	14-16	F Troy Murphy	59
	Skinny: A replacement must be found for C Phil Hickey.			
61.	*Murray State/Tevester Anderson	27-5	F Isaac Spencer	128
	Skinny: With four starters back, Racers may win their 12th OVC title in 13 years.			
62.	*George Mason/Jim Larranaga	19-10	F George Evans	116
	Skinny: If offense struggles, look for defensive pressure to carry Patriots.			
63.	Nebraska/Danny Nee	19-12	G Cookie Belcher	50
	Skinny: Nee needs to blend six newcomers to secure 11th straight postseason bid.			
64.	Wyoming/Steve McClain	18-10	C Ugo Udezue	85
	Skinny: If the Cowboys can avoid injuries, Laramie will be a fun place.			
65.	Rhode Island/Jerry DeGregorio	20-13	F Luther Clay	32
	Skinny: The Rams need to stabilize their backcourt.			
66.	*Appalachian State/Buzz Peterson	21-8	G Matt McMahon	130
	Skinny: The guards are the best in the Southern, but help is needed inside.			
67.	Alabama/Mark Gottfried	17-14	C Jeremy Hays	104
	Skinny: A heralded recruiting class needs to help now.			
68.	NC State/Herb Sendek	18-13	F Kenny Inge	43
	Skinny: How will a veteran team react if freshman Damien Wilkins is the star?			
69.	Rutgers/Kevin Bannon	18-12	F Dahntay Jones	59
	Skinny: With nine freshmen and sophomores, fans must be patient.			
70.	Indiana State/Royce Waltman	15-12	G F Nate Green	125
	Skinny: Must show maturity to handle high expectations.			
71.	*Louisiana Tech/Keith Richard	19-9	G Craig Jackson	133
	Skinny: A touted recruiting class will help continue the Bulldogs' climb.			
72.	Southern Miss/James Green	14-16	F/C Vandarel Jones	79
	Skinny: Golden Eagles will be hard-pressed to replace top four scorers.			
73.	Iowa State/Larry Eustachy	15-15	F Marcus Fizer	50
	Skinny: Cyclones need to reduce turnovers and feed Fizer down low.			
74.	Iowa/Steve Alford	18-9	G Dean Oliver	71
	Skinny: JC arrival F Rob Griffin needs to play a big role.			
75.	Ball State/Ray McCallum	16-11	G Duane Clemens	120
	Skinny: Key for Cardinals is getting better play inside.			
76.	Butler/Barry Collier	20-9	F Mike Marshall	123
	Skinny: There's no true scorer but lots of depth and experience.			
77.	Saint Mary's/Dave Bollwinkel	13-18	C Brad Millard	135
	Skinny: The Gaels must keep "Big Continent" healthy.			
78.	College of Charleston/John Kresse	28-2	F Jody Lumpkin	132
	Skinny: Cougars must replace five starters, but don't discount the power of Kresse.			
79.	Hofstra/Jay Wright	22-9	G Craig Claxton	111
	Skinny: To win America East, the front line needs to be fortified.			
80.	Colorado/Ricardo Patton	17-14	G Jaquay Walls	51
	Skinny: If the Buffaloes can rebound, they should be a solid team.			
81.	SMU/Mike Dement	15-15	G Jeryl Sasser	108
	Skinny: To make noise, the Mustangs need to develop a frontcourt.			
82.	Arkansas State/Dickey Nutt	18-11	G Chico Fletcher	134
	Skinny: Indians must become more physical on the boards and blend newcomers.			
83.	Iona/Jeff Ruland	16-14	F Tariq Kirksay	118
	Skinny: Don't expect Ruland's team to again struggle to rebound.			
84.	Kent/Gary Waters	23-6	C John Whorton	120
	Skinny: Inside-outside balance will make Flashes tough.			
85.	Evansville/Jim Crews	23-9	F Craig Snow	125
	Skinny: If Aces keep shooting well and playing good defense, they may surprise.			
86.	Idaho/David Farrar	16-11	F Gordon Scott	113
	Skinny: Scott must live up to his hype for Vandals to succeed.			
87.	SE Missouri State/Gary Garner	20-9	F Roderick Johnson	128
	Skinny: Minus both guards and Bud Eley, SEMO will count on JC transfers.			
88.	East Carolina/Bill Herrion	13-14	F Evaldas Jocys	116
	Skinny: Pirates are well-stocked to challenge for Colonial title.			
89.	Penn State/Jerry Dunn	13-14	G Joe Crispin	72
	Skinny: Burly Jarrett Stephens must be over his knee injury.			
90.	Georgia/Jim Harrick	15-14	G D.A. Layne	100
	Skinny: Harrick must overcome loss of six players in debut year. That's too much.			
91.	Villanova/Steve Lappas	21-10	F Malik Allen	60
	Skinny: Lappas is again seeking the right backcourt combination.			
92.	Creighton/Dana Altman	21-8	G Ben Walker	125
	Skinny: Must make up for loss of Rodney Buford and play better defense.			
93.	SW Louisiana/Jesse Evans	13-16	F Lonnie Thomas	133
	Skinny: There's enough talent and coaching to win the Sun Belt.			
94.	UT-Chattanooga/Henry Dickerson	16-12	F Otis Donald	130
	Skinny: The Mocs are athletic, but depth may be a problem.			
95.	*Valparaiso/Homer Drew	23-9	F Lubos Barton	141
	Skinny: Rebounding, defense will lead Crusaders to sixth straight Mid-Con title.			
96.	*Pennsylvania/Fran Dunphy	21-5	G Michael Jordan	140
	Skinny: Experienced backcourt makes Quakers Ivy League favorite.			
97.	Loyola (Md.)/Dino Gaudio	13-15	G Jason Rowe	118
	Skinny: Gaudio is on the hot seat, so he'll lean heavily on Rowe's varied skills.			
98.	Austin Peay State/Dave Loos	11-16	G/F Trenton Hassell	128
	Skinny: If the guards play under control, the Govs may rule the OVC.			
99.	*Weber State/Joe Cravens	24-7	F Harold Arceneaux	137
	Skinny: Wildcats must adjust to new coach, but at least Arceneaux is back.			
100.	*Samford/Jimmy Tillette	24-5	F Reed Rawlings	151
	Skinny: TAAC champions will introduce a wrinkle of Princeton offense.			
101.	Marquette/Tom Crean	14-15	G Brian Wardle	78
	Skinny: It's vital that Crean establishes himself, as he has talent to work with.			
102.	*Central Conn. St./Howie Dickenman	19-13	G Rick Mickens	144
	Skinny: The Blue Devils look to build on last year's surprising success.			
103.	Bowling Green/Dan Dakich	18-10	F Anthony Stacey	120
	Skinny: To make noise, the Falcons must shoot better.			

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HOW THEY STACK UP

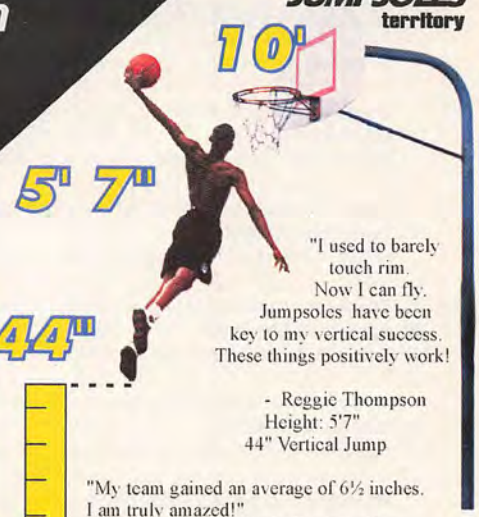
RK. TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG
104. Wis.-Green Bay/Mike Heideman	20-11	G B.J. LaRue	123
Skinny: Too much youth and inexperience to win the MCC.			
105. Santa Clara/Dick Davey	14-15	G Brian Jones	135
Skinny: If Jones is healthy after missing last year, all will be well.			
106. Utah State/Stew Morrill	15-13	G Troy Rolle	113
Skinny: A bunch of newcomers must deliver immediate dividends.			
107. Davidson/Bob McKillop	16-11	F Landry Kosmalski	130
Skinny: Ali Ton will be missed, but Wildcats will make strong run at Southern title.			
108. Richmond/John Beilein	15-12	F Charles Stephens	116
Skinny: This is a young, gifted team a year away from contention.			
109. *Texas-San Antonio/Tim Carter	18-10	G Devin Brown	148
Skinny: Four starters are back from last year's NCAA team.			
110. Minnesota/Don Monson	17-10	C Joel Przybilla	72
Skinny: The Gophers are counting on their recruits helping.			
111. UC Santa Barbara/Bob Williams	15-13	G Derrick Allen	113
Skinny: Gauchos can't sneak up on foes and must find some big men.			
112. Oral Roberts/Scott Sutton	17-11	F Derrick Taylor	141
Skinny: With suspect shooting, Golden Eagles must shoot well from outside.			
113. LSU/John Brady	12-15	C Jabari Smith	104
Skinny: The guards need to score and limit turnovers to help the big guys.			
114. Seton Hall/Tommy Amaker	15-14	G Shaheen Holloway	60
Skinny: Pirates seeking a more balanced inside-outside attack.			
115. SW Missouri State/Barry Hinson	20-10	G William Fontleroy	125
Skinny: New coach will have the Bears shooting straight.			
116. *South Carolina State/Cy Alexander	17-12	G Mike Wiatre	143
Skinny: Guards need to provide leadership for deep, versatile team.			
117. *Alcorn State/Davey Whitney	23-6	G Wallace Harris	150
Skinny: Harris, Terrance Cameron and Brian Adams make Braves SWAC favorite.			
118. San Francisco/Philip Mathews	12-18	C Kenyon Jones	135
Skinny: The Dons need to shoot better to thrive in the West Coast Conference.			
119. Va. Commonwealth/Mack McCarthy	15-16	G LaMar Taylor	116
Skinny: Perimeter-oriented Rams are a veteran crew that may be a surprise.			
120. Dayton/Oliver Purnell	11-17	C Mark Ashman	35
Skinny: With a nucleus of strong players, Flyers should finally win on the road.			
121. Western Kentucky/Dennis Felton	13-16	G Nashon McPherson	133
Skinny: Young talent is exciting, and if holes filled quickly, Hilltoppers will shine.			
122. Saint Louis/Lorenzo Romar	15-16	G Justin Love	78
Skinny: Romar must mold his system around Charlie Spoonhour's players.			
123. Memphis/Tic Price	13-15	G Marcus Moody	80
Skinny: The Tigers must overcome the loss of G Jimmie Hunter.			
124. *Winthrop/Gregg Marshall	21-7	G Tyson Waterman	138
Skinny: Marshall's multi-offense and pressure defense make the Eagles tough.			
125. *Lafayette/Fran O'Hanlon	22-7	G Brian Ehlers	147
Skinny: Two Patriot League Players of Year are on the roster, which bodes well.			
126. Princeton/Bill Carmody	20-7	C Chris Young	140
Skinny: Lack of backcourt scoring punch could be detrimental.			
127. Central Michigan/Jay Smith	10-16	F Mike Manciel	120
Skinny: Chippewas are making strides, but rebounding, ballhandling remain bad.			
128. Cleveland State/Rollie Massimino	14-14	G James Madison	123
Skinny: If the Vikings harness their athletic ability, they could surprise.			
129. Middle Tennessee State/Randy Wiel	12-19	F Fernando Ortiz	128
Skinny: This team may finally be suited to run the North Carolina style Wiel likes.			
130. Kansas State/Tom Asbury	20-12	F Tony Kitt	51
Skinny: At least three of five newcomers need to play big roles.			
131. Colorado State/Ritchie McKay	19-11	F Ceedric Goodwyn	85
Skinny: The Rams' hopes rest with developing a good point guard.			
132. St. Joseph's/Phil Martelli	12-18	F Andre Howard	33
Skinny: Hawks must learn how to score aside from in a halfcourt set.			
133. UTEP/TBA	16-12	F Brandon Wolfram	109
Skinny: Must take good shots and play solid defense in Don Haskins' absence.			
134. UNC-Greensboro/Fran McCaffery	7-20	F Demetrius Cherry	130
Skinny: These guys can shoot, but guard play and defense need to be improved.			
135. Northwestern/Kevin O'Neill	15-13	G David Newman	73
Skinny: With Evan Eschmeyer gone, who is going to score?			
136. Cal State Fullerton/Bob Hawking	13-14	F Ike Harmon	113
Skinny: The Titans are still fighting through the effects of probation.			
137. St. Peter's/Rodger Blind	14-15	G Ricky Bellinger	118
Skinny: The Peacocks will struggle to score most nights but still may cause fits.			
138. New Orleans/Joey Stiebing	14-16	F Curtis Wilson	133
Skinny: Headed by good front line, Privateers may surprise.			
139. Mount St. Mary's/Jim Phelan	15-14	G Gregory Harris	144
Skinny: There are several promising big youngsters, but depth is minimal.			
140. Northern Arizona/Mike Adras	21-8	C Dan McClintock	137
Skinny: With McClintock, expect new coach to continue NAU's winning ways.			
141. California/Ben Braun	17-11	F Sean Lampley	93
Skinny: Talented but young, Cal must learn from mistakes.			
142. Boston College/Al Skinner	6-21	F Brian Ross	61
Skinny: The Eagles need improved play from their guards.			
143. Texas Tech/James Dickey	13-17	G Rayford Young	52
Skinny: The Red Raiders need help from newcomers and must get stronger.			
144. Southern Illinois/Bruce Weber	15-12	F/C Chris Thunell	125
Skinny: Weber preaches defense, and his troops are listening. Things look good.			
145. Loyola (Ill.)/Larry Farmer	9-18	G Earl Brown	123
Skinny: Ramblers must shoot better and tighten their defense.			
146. Fla. International/Shakey Rodriguez	13-16	F Darius Cook	133
Skinny: With five freshmen, leadership may be a problem.			
147. Washington/Bob Bender	17-11	G Deon Luton	94
Skinny: Scoring, rebounding concerns with Todd MacCulloch, Donald Watts gone.			
148. Rice/Willis Wilson	18-10	G Mike Wilks	109
Skinny: Owls have to develop an offense to succeed.			
149. Northern Illinois/Brian Hammel	6-20	F T.J. Lux	120
Skinny: Having Lux back from injury will be a boon to Huskies.			
150. Marshall/Greg White	16-11	G Travis Young	120
Skinny: Talented and quick backcourt is worth watching.			
151. Old Dominion/Jeff Capel	24-8	F Andre McCullum	116
Skinny: It looks as though Monarchs finally must endure a rebuilding season.			
152. Tennessee Tech/Jeff Lebo	12-15	G Corey Hemphill	128
Skinny: A solid nucleus and talented newcomers may reap Tech's first OVC title.			
153. Drexel/Steve Seymour	20-9	F Joe Linderman	111
Skinny: Dragons need immediate perimeter help from newcomers.			
154. James Madison/Sherman Dillard	16-11	G Jabari Outtz	116
Skinny: Postseason hopes rest with big Rob Strickland consistently playing hard.			
155. Houston/Clyde Drexler	10-17	G Gee Gervin	80
Skinny: Cougars have to stay focused and play with passion.			
156. South Carolina/Eddie Fogler	8-21	F Antonio Grant	101
Skinny: It's vital for the Gamecocks to improve offensive production.			
157. Arizona State/Rob Evans	14-16	G Eddie House	94
Skinny: Young talent must remain confident in potentially tough season.			
158. Maine/John Giannini	19-9	G Andy Bedard	111
Skinny: Defense and rebounding have to improve for a first-division finish.			
159. Boise State/Rod Jensen	21-8	F Kejuan Woods	113
Skinny: Eight players are back, but one isn't standout Roberto Bergersen.			
160. Marist/Dave Magarity	16-12	C Tom Kenney	118
Skinny: Once new guards adapt, the Red Foxes will take off.			
161. Pepperdine/Jan van Breda Kolff	19-12	F Kelvin Gibbs	135
Skinny: If van Breda Kolff can instill toughness and intensity, Waves will roll.			
162. Illinois State/Tom Richardson	16-15	G Tarise Bryson	125
Skinny: Need to find a point guard and play better defense.			
163. Oakland/Greg Kampe	12-15	F Dan Champagne	141
Skinny: Dazzling array of 3-point shooters makes Golden Grizzlies dangerous.			
164. Dartmouth/Dave Faucher	14-12	G Greg Buth	140
Skinny: Return of all five starters buoys the hopes of the Big Green.			
165. Wofford/Richard Johnson	11-16	G Ian Chadwick	130
Skinny: Good guard play may overcome lack of experience, rebounding.			
166. Montana State/Mick Durham	16-13	G Jeff Riggs	137
Skinny: Talented group of youngsters makes Bobcats promising.			
167. Georgia State/Lefty Driesell	17-13	G Kevin Morris	151
Skinny: Most talented and athletic team in the TAAC.			
168. Norfolk State/Wil Jones	15-12	G Damian Woolfolk	143
Skinny: Lots of talent, but how will team adjust to second coach in two years?			
169. Jackson State/Andy Stoglin	16-12	C Vincent Jones	150
Skinny: If experience counts, the Tigers are in good shape with 11 players back.			
170. UAB/Murry Bartow	20-11	G Torrey Ward	81
Skinny: The loss of six seniors will be hard for the Blazers to overcome.			
171. Louisiana-Monroe/Mike Vining	13-14	F Mike Smith	148
Skinny: Indians have the talent and athletic ability to contend for title.			
172. George Washington/Tom Penders	20-8	G Mike King	35
Skinny: Postseason bid hinges on play of new guards.			
173. West Virginia/Gale Catlett	10-19	F Marcus Goree	61
Skinny: The Mountaineers must rediscover how to execute an offense.			
174. St. Bonaventure/Jim Baron	14-15	G Tim Winn	33
Skinny: Bonnies in search of depth and production along front line.			

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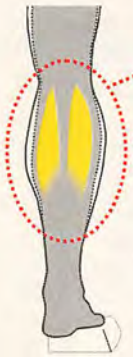
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HOW THEY STACK UP

RK.TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG.
175. Portland State/Joel Sobotka	17-11	F Hasan Artharee	137
Skinny: Big, bad Vikings may emerge in Big Sky.			
176. Cornell/Scott Thompson	11-15	F Ray Mercedes	140
Skinny: A lack of depth will doom the Big Red.			
177. Vermont/Tom Brennan	11-16	G Tony Orciari	111
Skinny: Need to become unselfish to challenge for America East crown.			
178. Stetson/Murray Arnold	14-13	F Sebastian Singletary	151
Skinny: The Hatters again will rebound well and grind down teams.			
179. Pacific/Bob Thomason	14-13	F Barry Marvel	113
Skinny: The Tigers' success hinges on how well youngsters develop.			
180. Central Florida/Kirk Speraw	19-10	G D'Quarius Stewart	152
Skinny: Good players on hand, but no matchup problems for TAAC foes.			
181. Robert Morris/Jim Boone	15-12	G Gene Nabors	145
Skinny: After reshaping the roster the past few years, Colonials are making noise.			
182. Navy/Don DeVoe	20-7	G Chris Williams	147
Skinny: Middies need to improve shooting and reduce turnovers.			
183. Hampton/Steve Merfeld	8-19	F Tarvis Williams	143
Skinny: Rookies and transfers have Pirates poised for breakthrough.			
184. St. Francis (N.Y.)/Ron Ganulin	15-12	G Richy Dominguez	145
Skinny: Balanced and experienced, Terriers may win Northeast title.			
185. Montana/Don Holst	13-14	F Matt Williams	137
Skinny: Move back to renovated gym may do wonders.			
186. Maryland-Baltimore Co./Tom Sullivan	19-9	G Terence Ward	145
Skinny: Defense, controlled offense again will make Retrievers formidable.			
187. Fairfield/Tim O'Toole	12-15	F/C Darren Phillip	118
Skinny: To contend for the MAAC title, the Stags must play better defense.			
188. Western Illinois/Jim Kerwin	16-12	F Juan Martinez	141
Skinny: Look for Leathernecks to contend in Mid-Con thanks to good rebounding.			
189. Coppin State/Fang Mitchell	15-14	G Jorge Cajigas	143
Skinny: Cajigas needs to carry the Eagles, who are inconsistent inside.			
190. Mississippi/Rod Barnes	19-12	F Marcus Hicks	105
Skinny: Guys who filled roles last season need to play bigger parts.			
191. La Salle/Speedy Morris	13-15	G Donnie Carr	36
Skinny: Explorers searching for someone to score and rebound inside.			
192. San Diego/Brad Holland	18-9	G Dana White	135
Skinny: Toreros will be athletic, but Holland wants leaders to emerge.			
193. Clemson/Larry Shyatt	16-14	C Adam Allenspach	44
Skinny: Just making the NIT would be a big feat for the Tigers.			
194. Southern/Tommy Green	21-7	F Adarrial Smylie	150
Skinny: With Devan Clark and Smylie back, the Jags' hopes look good.			
195. Jacksonville/Hugh Durham	12-15	F Calvin Slaughter	152
Skinny: Defense must again carry the load if the Dolphins shoot poorly.			
196. McNeese State/Ron Everhart	13-15	G Demond Mallet	148
Skinny: Talented Cowboys have lost element of surprise.			
197. Portland/Rob Chavez	9-18	F Troy Collins	135
Skinny: The Pilots hope their effort to get bigger pays off.			
198. Western Carolina/Phil Hopkins	8-21	G Casey Rogers	130
Skinny: The Catamounts will press and run, but they'll be weak inside.			
199. BYU/Steve Cleveland	12-16	G Terrell Lyday	86
Skinny: Slowly but surely, Cleveland is building the Cougars back to respectability.			
200. Wichita State/Randy Smithson	13-17	G Jason Perez	125
Skinny: Shockers hope pressing/up-tempo style reaps success.			
201. Wright State/Ed Schilling	9-18	F Kevin Melson	123
Skinny: The Raiders are young, but with good point guard play may shine.			
202. Cal State Northridge/Bobby Braswell	17-12	F Rico Harris	137
Skinny: Maturation of last year's JC talent will pay off.			
203. Youngstown State/John Robic	14-14	F Elmer Brown	142
Skinny: Defense, halfcourt offense may not be enough for Penguins.			
204. Texas-Arlington/Eddie McCarter	10-16	G Kevin Greene	148
Skinny: McCarter boasts one of his most talented teams ever.			
205. Furman/Larry Davis	12-16	F Stas Makshantsev	130
Skinny: Makshantsev needs to play a bigger role on a young team.			
206. Yale/James Jones	4-22	G Onaje Woodbine	140
Skinny: Bulldogs are hoping new coach can revitalize moribund program.			
207. Washington State/Paul Graham	10-19	G Jan-Michael Thomas	95
Skinny: Terrific shooters must make things happen for team that lacks talent.			
208. North Carolina A&T/Curtis Hunter	13-15	G Marque Carrington	143
Skinny: The Aggies play tough defense but are poor free-throw shooters.			
209. Bucknell/Pat Flannery	16-13	F Valter Karavanic	147
Skinny: Bison have the talent but must learn to win in Patriot tournament.			
210. South Alabama/Bob Weltlich	11-16	G Ravonte Dantzler	133
Skinny: Jaguars will ditch deliberate offense for up-tempo attack.			

RK.TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG.
211. Florida State/Steve Robinson	13-17	F Ron Hale	44
Skinny: Justin Mott and Oliver Simmons need to provide post scoring.			
212. Providence/Tim Welsh	16-13	C Karim Shabazz	62
Skinny: Shabazz must be ready after sitting out first semester as a transfer.			
213. Ohio/Larry Hunter	17-10	F Shaun Stonerook	120
Skinny: Someone must fill LaDrell Whitehead's scoring void.			
214. North Texas/Vic Trilli	4-22	F Deginald Erskin	113
Skinny: Eagles may punch back after battling many big boys last year.			
215. UNC- Wilmington/Jerry Wainwright	11-17	G Barron Thelmon	116
Skinny: Seahawks looking for leadership, ballhandling and buckets.			
216. Hartford/Paul Brazeau	11-16	F Rob Sawicki	111
Skinny: New recruits must produce three or four key performers.			
217. Virginia Tech/Ricky Stokes	13-15	F Rolan Roberts	36
Skinny: Hokies' backcourt has to avoid mistakes and increase production.			
218. San Jose State/Steve Barnes	12-16	G R.J. Powell	110
Skinny: With eight new players, chemistry must develop quickly.			
219. Drake/Kurt Kanaskie	10-17	G Matt Woodley	125
Skinny: All five starters are back, but they need to learn to win on the road.			
220. Pittsburgh/Ben Howland	14-16	F Isaac Hawkins	62
Skinny: Howland likes to shoot, so the Panthers must adjust.			
221. Duquesne/Darelle Porter	5-23	F Wayne Smith	37
Skinny: If newcomers fulfill expectations, the Dukes may be OK.			
222. Miami (Ohio)/Charlie Coles	22-7	G Rob Mestas	120
Skinny: Only role players remain from last year's Sweet 16 team.			
223. Illinois-Chicago/Jimmy Collins	7-21	F Joel Bullock	123
Skinny: Collins must show patience and build toward the future.			
224. Northeastern/Rudy Keeling	10-18	G Marcus Blossom	111
Skinny: Huskies hope a cache of JC arrivals contributes big right away.			
225. Canisius/Mike MacDonald	15-12	C Darren Fenn	118
Skinny: Griffs need to overcome inexperience, develop chemistry early.			
226. Morehead State/Kyle Macy	13-15	G Brad Cleaver	128
Skinny: The loss of Erik Brown hurts, but Macy has the Eagles on the rise.			
227. Fairleigh Dickinson/Tom Green	12-16	F Chris Ekwe	145
Skinny: Knights must reduce turnovers and continue to shoot well.			
228. Miss. Valley State/Lafayette Stribling	14-13	G Marcus Metcalf	150
Skinny: With improved shooting, rebounding and defense, anything is possible.			
229. Radford/Ron Bradley	20-8	C Ryan Charles	138
Skinny: Look for the Highlanders to build on last year's success.			
230. Western Michigan/Bob Donewald	11-15	G Tony Barksdale	120
Skinny: Broncs hope JC talent continues to pay dividends.			
231. East Tennessee State/Ed DeChellis	17-11	G D.J. McDuffie	130
Skinny: The Bucs can score inside, but inexperienced guard play will hurt.			
232. Southwest Texas State/Mike Miller	19-9	G Wesley Williams	148
Skinny: Significant losses will make scoring—and winning—difficult.			
233. Tulane/Perry Clark	12-15	F Ledaryl Billingsley	81
Skinny: Guard play is good, but this is a young team with little inside help.			
234. Fordham/Bob Hill	12-15	G Bevon Robin	34
Skinny: Rams need frontcourt help, but look for Hill to generate some upsets.			
235. Northern Iowa/Sam Weaver	9-18	F Joe Breakenridge	125
Skinny: Need to improve rebounding and defense to avoid MVC cellar.			
236. Eastern Michigan/Milton Barnes	5-20	F Craig Erquhart	120
Skinny: Eagles need to become better shooters to improve.			
237. Idaho State/Doug Oliver	6-20	G Kevin Sweetwyne	137
Skinny: Bengals need lots of help from Utah transfer Jordie McTavish.			
238. Campbell/Billy Lee	9-18	F Jamie Simmons	152
Skinny: For any success, Camels needs to cut down on turnovers.			
239. Florida A&M/Mickey Clayton	12-18	F Brian Johnson	143
Skinny: Clayton must blend newcomers to last year's MEAC tournament champs.			
240. Texas A&M/Melvin Watkins	12-15	F Aaron Jack	52
Skinny: With Clifton Cook lost to academics, everyone must play a bigger role.			
241. Hawaii/Riley Wallace	6-20	F/G Pedrag Savovic	110
Skinny: A roster makeover means time is needed for team to find offense.			
242. Long Island/Ray Martin	10-17	F Richie Parker	145
Skinny: Blackbirds must work in a new backcourt.			
243. Georgia Southern/Jeff Price	11-17	F/C Kashien Latham	130
Skinny: Lack of size, go-to guy and tough schedule spell trouble.			
244. Baylor/Dave Bliss	6-24	F Jamie Kendrick	53
Skinny: Bliss wants to play up-tempo style, but who's going to shoot?			
245. Holy Cross/Ralph Willard	7-20	F Juan Pegues	147
Skinny: Crusaders are searching for a point guard.			

HOW THEY STACK UP

RK. TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV PG.
46. UNC-Asheville/Eddie Biedenbach	11-18	G/F John Risinger	138
Skinny: Must build offense around C Adam Earnhardt.			
247. Texas Southern/Robert Moreland	8-19	C/F Ifey Anyanwu	150
Skinny: Hopes at improving hinge on shooting better.			
248. Alabama State/Rob Spivery	11-16	F Tyrone Levett	150
Skinny: The starting five looks good, but newcomers must fill key roles.			
249. Nicholls State/Ricky Broussard	14-15	G James Banks	148
Skinny: Arrival of solid recruiting class bodes for bright future.			
250. Air Force/Reggie Minton	10-16	F Tyron Wright	86
Skinny: Falcons look to continue improving offensive production.			
251. Buffalo/Tim Cohane	5-24	G Louis Campbell	120
Skinny: Experience and toughness may remain problems.			
252. Wisconsin-Milwaukee/Ric Cobb	8-19	C Chad Angeli	123
Skinny: The Panthers have talent, but there's little experience.			
253. Eastern Illinois/Rick Samuels	13-16	G Kyle Hill	128
Skinny: It will be hard to replace Jack Owen's stats, leadership and toughness.			
254. San Diego State/Steve Fisher	4-22	G Donte Wilson	87
Skinny: Effort will be there, but Fisher must stress executing and producing.			
255. Southern Utah/Bill Evans	13-17	F Tyson Hancock	142
Skinny: Thunderbirds' newcomers must help team play better defense.			
256. Colgate/Emmett Davis	14-14	F Pat Campolieta	147
Skinny: Lack of good guard play will hamper Red Raiders.			
257. Md.-Eastern Shore/Lonnie Williams	10-17	F Kevin Wallace	143
Skinny: If the Hawks stay healthy, they will be dangerous.			
258. Quinnipiac/Joe DeSantis	9-18	G Nate Pondexter	145
Skinny: Braves still lack size in a Northeast Conference that's getting bigger.			
259. The Citadel/Pat Dennis	9-18	F Rod Shiver	130
Skinny: The Bulldogs play good defense, but who will score?			
260. Loyola Marymount/Charles Bradley	11-16	F Elton Mashack	135
Skinny: For a school known for scoring, the Lions are searching for points.			
261. Tennessee State/Frankie Allen	12-15	G Jamie Roberts	128
Skinny: Allen is looking for a leader in what may be a critical year.			
262. Ark.-Little Rock/Sidney Moncrief	12-15	G Alan Barksdale	133
Skinny: New coach Moncrief must find some inside forces from his recruits.			
263. Eastern Washington/Steve Aggers	10-17	F Chris White	137
Skinny: Change in backcourt may provide positive results.			
264. St. Francis (Pa.)/Bobby Jones	9-17	F Tom Fox	145
Skinny: Red Flash need to rebound from season-ending nine-game losing skein.			
265. Liberty/Mel Hankinson	4-23	G Delawn Grandison	138
Skinny: Influx of midseason transfers will provide a boost.			
266. Charleston Southern/Tom Conrad	12-16	F Nick Mitchell	139
Skinny: The Bucs hope arrival of several foreigners provides a lift.			
267. UC Irvine/Pat Douglass	6-20	G Jerry Green	113
Skinny: Perimeter-oriented Anteaters need post help.			
268. American/Art Perry	7-21	G Jarion Childs	116
Skinny: A lack of power players will hamper the Eagles.			
269. Eastern Kentucky/Scott Perry	3-23	G Whitney Robinson	128
Skinny: Colonels need to be more disciplined to succeed.			
270. Virginia Military/Bart Bellairs	12-15	F Aaron Demory	130
Skinny: Someone must fill Jason Bell's scoring void.			
271. Mercer/Mark Slonaker	8-18	G Earnest Brown	152
Skinny: Poor shooting and lack of a playmaker will hurt Bears.			
272. Grambling/Larry Wright	6-21	F/C Chris Thomas	150
Skinny: With just one starter back, the Tigers will struggle under a new coach.			
273. Sam Houston State/Bob Marlin	10-16	G David Amaya	149
Skinny: Hopes are high, as 10 returning players are back.			
274. IUPUI/Ron Hunter	11-16	F Don Carlisle	142
Skinny: Inside guys need to ease pressure on perimeter players.			
275. Harvard/Frank Sullivan	13-13	F Dan Clemente	140
Skinny: A lack of experience will be hard to overcome for Crimson.			
276. Towson/Mike Jaskulski	6-22	F Brian Barber	111
Skinny: Tigers have experience, but they're small and in for a tough year.			
277. Boston University/Dennis Wolff	9-18	G Dereck Franklin	111
Skinny: BU fans must be happy with building toward the future.			
278. Niagara/Joe Mihalich	17-12	G Daryl Greene	118
Skinny: After losing five seniors, the Purple Eagles are starting over.			
279. Tennessee-Martin/Bret Campbell	8-18	G Andrae Betts	128
Skinny: Betts is good but surrounded by little talent. It will be a long year.			
280. Troy State/Don Maestri	9-18	C Eugene Christopher	152
Skinny: Bevy of newcomers may take jobs from veteran starters.			
281. Alabama A&M/L. Vann Pettaway	10-17	F Terrance Vanlier	150
Skinny: Unless inside game improves, Bulldogs may struggle.			

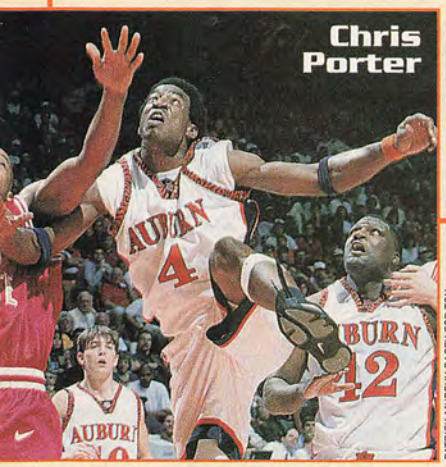
RK. TEAM/COACH	98-99 REC.	STAR PLAYER	PREV. PG.
282. Nevada/Trent Johnson	8-18	C Dimitrios Marmarinos	113
Skinny: Wolf Pack's last season in Big West before going to WAC may be ugly.			
283. Manhattan/Bobby Gonzalez	5-22	F Ken Kavanagh	118
Skinny: The Jaspers can't commit as many turnovers as last year.			
284. Cal Poly/Jeff Schneider	11-16	F Chris Bjorklund	113
Skinny: The Mustangs are a veteran crew that underachieved last year.			
285. New Hampshire/Phil Rowe	4-23	C Rob Marquardt	111
Skinny: Fans must hope for a miracle to avoid America East cellar.			
286. Rider/Don Harnum	12-16	G Greg Burston	118
Skinny: There will be little to cheer about as the roster is rebuilt.			
287. William & Mary/Charlie Woollum	8-19	F Jim Moran	116
Skinny: Player defections have left the Tribe with little hope.			
288. Missouri-Kansas City/Bob Sundvold	8-22	G Robbie Graves	142
Skinny: Rebounding will be strong, but shooting must get better.			
289. Columbia/Armond Hill	10-16	F Craig Austin	140
Skinny: Hill has the Lions playing defense; now, if he can teach them offense.			
290. Lamar/Mike Deane	17-11	G Landon Rowe	149
Skinny: Deane knows how to win, which makes the Cardinals a wild card.			
291. High Point/Jerry Steele	10-16	F/C Geordie Cullen	139
Skinny: Look out. The Panthers face their toughest schedule.			
292. Lehigh/Sal Mentesana	6-22	F Pete Delea	147
Skinny: Four starters back from team that failed to win Patriot League game.			
293. Morgan State/Chris Fuller	14-14	G Jimmy Fields	143
Skinny: For the Bears to make noise, the freshmen must shine.			
294. Bethune-Cookman/Horace Broadnax	11-16	G Freddie Cole	143
Skinny: The Wildcats play good defense and have confidence.			
295. Sacramento State/Tom Abatemarco	3-23	F Anthony Flood	137
Skinny: Team is still too young to run with the Big Sky's big dogs.			
296. Chicago State/Bo Ellis	3-24	G Jermaine Hicks	142
Skinny: The Cougars must shoot better, but arrival of big guys will ease burden.			
297. Brown/Glen Miller	4-22	F Shaun Ethridge	140
Skinny: There are promising newcomers, but it will take the new coach time.			
298. Jacksonville State/Mark Turgeon	8-18	G Marlon Gurley	152
Skinny: Too many holes and lack of depth will be too much to overcome.			
299. Sacred Heart/Dave Bike	11-16	G Kurt Reis	145
Skinny: Move from Division II to Division I will be difficult.			
300. Delaware State/Tony Sheals	8-19	G Stefan Malliet	143
Skinny: With a new coach, this is a season of transition.			
301. Northwestern State/Mike McConathy	11-15	G Richard Taylor	149
Skinny: Demons will be quick and athletic but will lack size and bulk.			
302. Wagner/Dereck Whittenburg	9-18	F Lesli Myrthil	146
Skinny: Whittenburg must try to shape a roster that has been overhauled.			
303. Florida Atlantic/Sidney Green	6-20	G Ryan Hercek	152
Skinny: Athletic team, but a lack of experience will be hard to overcome.			
304. Monmouth/Dave Calloway	5-21	F Quinn Hayes	146
Skinny: Questionable leadership has left a once-strong program a mess.			
305. Denver/Marty Fletcher	10-17	G Arthur Ireland	133
Skinny: Sun Belt's newest member and youngest team is in for long season.			
306. Prairie View/Elwood Plummer	6-21	G Gregory Burks	150
Skinny: Panthers will struggle to replace Jocquinn Arch's scoring.			
307. Howard/Kirk Saulny	2-25	G Ali Abdullah	143
Skinny: The Bison will have problems, but look for improvement.			
308. Elon/Mark Simons	11-16	G Brendan Rowell	139
Skinny: The Fightin' Christians may claim a middle-of-the-pack Big South finish.			
309. Army/Pat Harris	8-19	F Seth Barrett	147
Skinny: If Cadets keep nucleus intact, they may challenge for first-division finish.			
310. Arkansas-Pine Bluff/Harold Blevins	3-23	F Patrick Chambers	150
Skinny: Athletic crew still looking for size and shooting ability.			
311. Coastal Carolina/Pete Strickland	7-20	G Steve Miles	139
Skinny: The Chanticleers aren't equipped to rebound from dismal season.			
312. SE Louisiana/Bill Kennedy	6-20	C Kelland Payton	149
Skinny: New coach Kennedy plans to use defense to inspire a turnaround.			
313. Stephen F. Austin/Derek Allister	4-22	F Patrick Gusters	149
Skinny: Gusters paced the Southland in scoring, but holes are everywhere else.			
314. Belmont/Rick Byrd	14-13	F Wes Burtner	153
Skinny: There's slight hope, as Bruins return top 10 scorers.			
315. Texas-Pan American/TBA	5-22	G Brian Merriweather	153
Skinny: Broncs have lost an NCAA-record 59 road games in a row.			
316. Centenary/Kevin Johnson	14-14	G Ronnie McCollum	153
Skinny: Coming off first non-losing season since 1993-94.			
317. SUNY-Albany/Scott Hicks	14-14	G Todd Cetnar	153
Skinny: Transition to Division I may be eased by veteran team.			
318. SUNY-Stony Brook/Nick Macarchuk	11-16	G Steve Pratta	153
Skinny: Seawolves must listen to Macarchuk as school makes Division I debut.			

player RANKINGS

Power Forwards

**Statistics from 1997-98*

Rank/Player	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	RPG	BPG	PPG
1. Chris Porter, Auburn	Sr.	6-7/218	47.0	63.1	8.6	0.4	16.0
2. Michael Wright, Arizona	So.	6-7/240	55.6	73.6	8.8	0.4	13.9
3. Kevin Freeman, Connecticut	Sr.	6-7/235	58.8	71.3	7.3	0.3	12.2
4. Hanno Mottola, Utah	Sr.	6-10/240	48.2	83.3	5.4	0.4	15.3
5. Shane Battier, Duke	Jr.	6-8/220	54.5	72.4	4.9	1.2	9.1
6. Eduardo Najera, Oklahoma	Sr.	6-8/235	41.5	64.2	8.3	0.8	15.5
7. Mark Madsen, Stanford	Sr.	6-9/235	60.5	58.3	9.0	0.6	13.1
8. Gabe Muoneke, Texas	Sr.	6-7/250	49.5	61.0	6.6	0.5	16.5
9. Marcus Fizer, Iowa State	Jr.	6-8/240	45.0	73.6	7.6	0.8	18.0
10. Lamont Barnes, Temple	Sr.	6-10/230	54.7	63.0	6.7	1.2	12.9
11. Troy Murphy, Notre Dame	So.	6-9/225	53.8	74.1	9.9	1.4	19.2
12. Kris Lang, North Carolina	So.	6-11/235	57.8	67.0	5.4	0.5	10.6
13. Mike Pegues, Delaware	Sr.	6-5/240	49.5	78.2	7.2	0.5	21.8
14. Jason Collier, Georgia Tech	Sr.	7-0/250	44.1	71.9	7.3	1.4	17.2
15. Lance Williams, DePaul	So.	6-9/250	50.0	53.2	7.8	0.6	13.9
16. Brian Cardinal, Purdue	Sr.	6-8/230	48.0	77.6	5.5	0.4	11.4
17. Isiah Victor, Tennessee	Jr.	6-9/215	58.9	59.6	7.3	1.2	11.3
18. Donnell Harvey, Florida	Fr.	6-8/215	—	—	—	—	—
19. Jerome Moiso, UCLA	So.	6-11/230	48.7	61.5	5.8	0.9	10.8
20. Brian Cook, Illinois	Fr.	6-10/220	—	—	—	—	—



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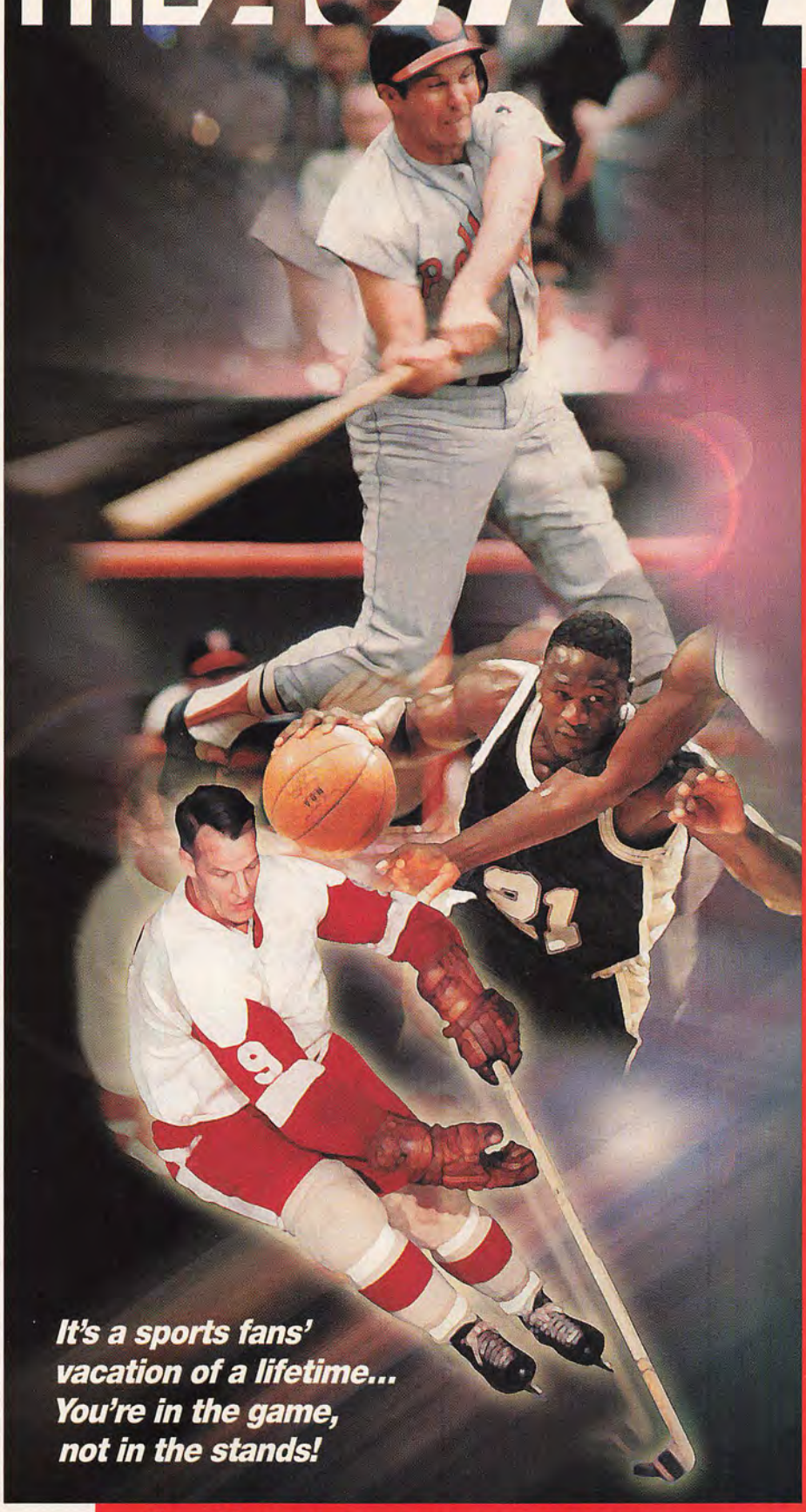
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player RANKINGS

Small Forwards

Rank/Player	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	RPG	PPG
1. Terence Morris, Maryland	Jr.	6-9/205	55.1	82.5	35.5	7.1	15.3
2. Pete Mickeal, Cincinnati	Sr.	6-6/220	58.3	70.1	31.3	7.2	14.9
3. Morris Peterson, Michigan State	Sr.	6-6/215	55.4	81.4	37.3	5.7	13.6
4. Chris Carrawell, Duke	Sr.	6-6/215	45.4	57.7	34.5	4.8	9.9
5. Harold Arceneaux, Weber State	Sr.	6-6/215	51.1	75.8	33.0	6.0	22.3
6. Mike Miller, Florida	So.	6-8/218	49.4	70.2	35.6	5.2	12.2
7. Mark Karcher, Temple	Jr.	6-5/220	36.7	64.9	29.4	5.8	13.4
8. Alex Jensen, Utah	Sr.	6-7/215	54.3	71.4	39.8	7.6	12.1
9. B.B. Waldon, South Florida	So.	6-8/210	50.1	51.0	30.1	7.0	16.2
10. Desmond Mason, Oklahoma State	Sr.	6-6/207	48.0	74.6	34.2	7.9	15.4
11. LaVell Blanchard, Michigan	Fr.	6-7/205	—	—	—	—	—
12. JaRon Rush, UCLA	So.	6-6/210	37.2	62.4	26.5	7.3	11.4
13. Chris Williams, Virginia	So.	6-6/198	51.2	73.2	30.0	7.5	16.8
14. Jason Capel, North Carolina	So.	6-8/230	42.9	85.4	41.1	4.1	9.1
15. Lubos Barton, Valparaiso	So.	6-7/210	45.7	81.3	35.8	5.6	13.8
16. Dan Langhi, Vanderbilt	Sr.	6-11/215	41.8	84.4	38.5	7.3	17.7
17. Tang Hamilton, Mississippi State	Jr.	6-7/215	47.9	69.5	32.8	5.7	11.3
18. Isaac Spencer, Murray State	Jr.	6-6/215	52.7	70.8	38.5	7.1	16.0
19. Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee	So.	6-7/210	41.7	70.2	27.4	5.2	7.6
20. Alex Scales, Oregon	Sr.	6-4/179	40.4	73.8	30.9	3.2	14.3

Centers

Rank/Player	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	RPG	BPG	PPG
1. Chris Mihm, Texas	Jr.	7-0/262	44.9	68.3	11.0	2.7	13.7
2. Kenyon Martin, Cincinnati	Sr.	6-8/230	57.3	56.2	6.9	2.4	10.1
3. Brendan Haywood, North Carolina	Jr.	7-0/271	64.8	67.2	6.9	1.8	12.0
4. Eric Chenowith, Kansas	Jr.	7-0/245	44.8	73.9	9.1	2.4	13.5
5. Etan Thomas, Syracuse	Sr.	6-9/247	61.7	57.4	7.4	3.9	12.3
6. Loren Woods, Arizona	Jr.	7-1/245	40.1	67.0	7.1	2.3	8.8*
7. Alvin Jones, Georgia Tech	Jr.	6-11/265	52.3	52.2	9.7	3.5	12.7
8. Joel Przybilla, Minnesota	So.	7-1/260	56.0	57.7	5.8	3.0	6.7
9. Jamaal Magloire, Kentucky	Sr.	6-10/260	53.1	57.6	4.4	1.9	7.0
10. Jake Voskuhl, Connecticut	Sr.	6-11/245	51.2	62.1	6.4	1.5	5.5
11. Kevin Lyde, Temple	So.	6-9/240	48.3	50.5	5.9	1.6	7.4
12. Kaspars Kambala, UNLV	Jr.	6-9/250	64.5	63.6	6.5	0.6	12.8
13. Ken Johnson, Ohio State	Sr.	6-11/225	52.1	48.6	5.7	2.8	6.4
14. Brian Scalabrine, USC	Jr.	6-9/240	53.1	79.2	6.4	0.9	14.6
15. Dan Gadzuric, UCLA	So.	6-10/245	54.0	50.0	5.7	1.3	8.6
16. Marcus Griffin, Illinois	Jr.	6-9/230	—	—	—	—	—
17. Mamadou N'diaye, Auburn	Sr.	7-0/235	48.9	64.9	7.5	2.3	7.2
18. Chris Young, Princeton	So.	6-11/235	53.6	73.6	5.3	1.8	12.9
19. Ugo Udezue, Wyoming	Jr.	6-8/237	47.4	59.8	7.4	0.4	20.5
20. Jabari Smith, LSU	Sr.	6-11/255	50.7	69.0	9.7	1.2	12.7

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player RANKINGS

Shooting Guards

Rank/Player	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	APG	PPG
1. Quentin Richardson, DePaul	So.	6-6/215	47.8	74.3	34.6	1.0	18.9
2. Michael Redd, Ohio State	Jr.	6-6/205	46.6	61.4	34.1	2.4	19.7
3. Cory Bradford, Illinois	So.	6-2/196	38.7	67.8	41.5	1.9	15.4
4. Courtney Alexander, Fresno State	Sr.	6-6/200	46.9	75.7	31.6	2.6	21.4
5. Johnny Hemsley, Miami (Fla.)	Sr.	6-5/195	44.9	78.4	40.0	2.3	17.8
6. Lamont Long, New Mexico	Sr.	6-4/190	43.8	81.2	38.0	3.0	16.8
7. A.J. Guyton, Indiana	Sr.	6-1/175	45.5	75.5	40.6	2.6	16.0
8. Jeryl Sasser, SMU	Jr.	6-6/200	41.3	72.2	29.2	3.5	18.7
9. Keith Bogans, Kentucky	Fr.	6-5/205	—	—	—	—	—
10. DerMarr Johnson, Cincinnati	Fr.	6-9/200	—	—	—	—	—
11. Rayford Young, Texas Tech	Sr.	5-11/175	43.8	87.7	39.2	3.9	16.1
12. Jaraan Cornell, Purdue	Sr.	6-3/200	40.6	78.9	34.7	2.1	15.2
13. Eddie House, Arizona State	Sr.	6-1/180	43.2	79.1	38.9	3.1	18.9
14. Frederick Jones, Oregon	So.	6-4/210	51.2	67.6	41.0	1.9	9.1
15. Bootsy Thornton, St. John's	Sr.	6-4/195	50.0	64.6	38.1	1.8	14.9
16. Monty Mack, UMass	Sr.	6-3/200	42.2	77.8	37.1	1.8	18.1
17. Donnie Carr, La Salle	Sr.	6-3/215	40.3	73.6	34.5	4.9	18.7
18. Gee Gervin, Houston	Sr.	6-2/170	42.3	79.1	40.0	3.9	20.6
19. Darnell Williams, Xavier	Sr.	6-5/205	55.9	70.9	44.8	1.9	17.3*
20. Deon Luton, Washington	Sr.	6-5/210	43.9	78.8	35.2	2.0	14.3

Point Guards

Rank/Player	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	APG	PPG
1. Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State	Sr.	6-2/195	40.6	78.7	29.2	7.2	11.7
2. Scoonie Penn, Ohio State	Sr.	5-10/185	44.9	74.1	38.4	4.3	16.9
3. Khalid El-Amin, Connecticut	Jr.	5-10/203	41.2	77.8	33.8	3.9	13.8
4. Erick Barkley, St. John's	So.	6-1/185	39.5	77.2	34.3	4.7	13.5
5. Ed Cota, North Carolina	Sr.	6-1/196	40.6	67.6	41.2	7.4	10.5
6. Tony Harris, Tennessee	Jr.	6-0/165	37.3	79.4	39.0	4.8	12.4
7. Pepe Sanchez, Temple	Sr.	6-4/198	34.6	73.3	26.1	5.8	8.2
8. Matt Santangelo, Gonzaga	Sr.	6-1/173	37.5	77.5	38.1	5.3	12.7
9. Doc Robinson, Auburn	Sr.	6-2/185	45.2	77.9	33.9	5.0	11.5
10. Robert O'Kelley, Wake Forest	Jr.	6-1/187	40.3	71.0	37.6	2.0	17.5
11. Deaundra Tanner, Oregon State	Jr.	6-1/205	35.1	78.6	31.9	4.7	15.8
12. Shaheen Holloway, Seton Hall	Sr.	5-10/173	35.8	67.5	22.1	5.0	9.3
13. Keyon Dooling, Missouri	So.	6-3/180	45.9	71.8	28.6	3.0	8.7
14. Chico Fletcher, Arkansas State	Sr.	5-6/170	43.1	70.9	33.3	8.3	17.0
15. Dean Oliver, Iowa	Jr.	5-11/175	40.1	71.6	36.7	4.5	11.9
16. Craig Claxton, Hofstra	Sr.	5-10/180	48.2	80.1	31.6	5.3	13.3
17. Jason Hart, Syracuse	Sr.	6-3/180	41.0	74.0	36.6	4.3	13.9
18. Earl Watson, UCLA	Jr.	6-0/183	43.5	70.3	32.0	4.6	13.3
19. Jason Williams, Duke	Fr.	6-2/190	—	—	—	—	—
20. Brett Nelson, Florida	Fr.	6-3/170	—	—	—	—	—

UNIT Rankings

FRONTCOURT

(Projected starters in bold)

1. **Cincinnati** (Ryan Fletcher, Eugene Land, Donald Little, **Kenyon Martin**, **Pete Mickeal**, **Jermaine Tate**). Martin is the nation's top shot blocker; Mickeal and Fletcher provide points on the wing.
2. **North Carolina** (Brian Bersticker, **Jason Capel**, **Brendan Haywood**, **Kris Lang**, Max Owens). Haywood improved greatly over the summer. Look for Capel to fulfill his potential. Depth will allow team to play pressure defense.
3. **Arizona** (Rick Anderson, **Richard Jefferson**, Luke Walton, Justin Wessel, **Loren Woods**, **Michael Wright**). If Woods plays with toughness, this may be the nation's best unit. Jefferson has potential as a scorer, and Wright can do it all.
4. **Temple** (**Lamont Barnes**, **Mark Karcher**, **Kevin Lyde**, Rouldra Thomas, Alex Wesby). In John Chaney style, these guys like to get physical. Look for Karcher to become the standout. Barnes and Lyde rule down low.
5. **Florida** (Matt Bonner, Donnell Harvey, **Udonis Haslem**, **Mike Miller**, Major Parker, **Brent Wright**). Miller is an emerging star on a team loaded with wing talent. Hyped rookie Harvey will inject needed toughness and rebounding muscle.
6. **UCLA** (Matt Barnes, **Dan Gadzuric**, Jason Kapono, **Jerome Moiso**, **JaRon Rush**). Inconsistency has plagued this talented group. Moiso needs to play smarter, and Gadzuric needs to play with a purpose. It's Rush's time to shine with Baron Davis gone.
7. **Tennessee** (**C.J. Black**, Charles Hathaway, Ron Slay, **Isiah Victor**, **Vincent Yarbrough**). Black and Hathaway are the enforcers; Victor and Yarbrough are athletic options who need to score.
8. **Syracuse** (**Ryan Blackwell**, **Damone Brown**, Mark McCarroll, Jeremy McNeil, **Etan Thomas**). Blackwell and Thomas are loads in the paint. Look for the lithe Brown to blossom.
9. **Utah** (**Nate Althoff**, Phil Cullen, **Alex Jensen**, **Hanno Mottola**). Jensen is the most underrated, but don't overlook the defensive whiz. Mottola is the star, as these guys are rebounding forces.
10. **Stanford** (**Jarron Collins**, Jason Collins, Casey Jacobsen, **Mark Madsen**, Ryan Mendez, **David Moseley**). Yes, Tim Young is gone, but that means the athletic quotient has increased. Jacobsen, a heralded freshman, will turn up the speed even more, but it's important the Collins twins stay healthy. Expect Madsen to be his mad self.

TEN other formidable FRONTCOURTS

Auburn (Marquis Daniels, **Mack McGadney**, **Mamadou N'diaye**, **Chris Porter**).

Connecticut (Ajou Ajou Deng, **Kevin Freeman**, **Edmund Sanders**, **Jake Voskuhl**, Souleymane Wane).

DePaul (Ayinde Avery, Lamar Butler, Steven Hunter, **Quentin Richardson, Bobby Simmons**, **Lance Williams**).

Duke (**Shane Battier**, Carlos Boozer, **Chris Carrawell**, Nick Horvath, Nate James, **Casey Sanders**).

Georgia Tech (**Jon Babul**, **Jason Collier**, Michael Isenhour, **Alvin Jones**, Clarence Moore).

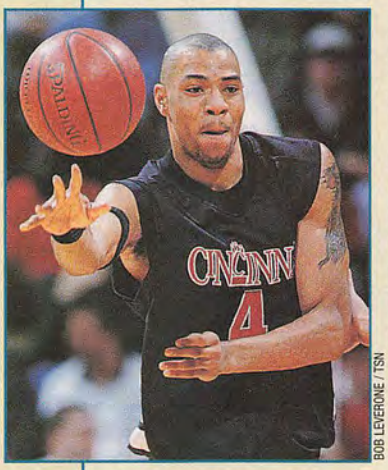
Kansas (**Nick Bradford**, **Eric Chenowith**, **Nick Collison**, Lester Earl, Andrew Gooden, Ashante Johnson).

Kentucky (Jules Camara, Nate Knight, **Jamaal Magloire**, **Tayshaun Prince**, **Marvin Stone**).

Maryland (**Lonny Baxter**, LaRon Cephas, Tahj Holden, **Danny Miller**, Mike Mardesich, **Terence Morris**).

NC State (**Kenny Inge**, **Damon Thornton**, Tim Wells, **Damien Wilkins**, Cornelius Williams).

Virginia (**Willie Dersch**, Stephane DonDon, **Colin Ducharme**, Travis Watson, **Chris Williams**).



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Best at blocks: *Martin led the nation in blocked shots.*

SIX underrated FRONTCOURTS

Butler (Joel Cornette, Ben Grunst, **Rylan Hainje**, **Michael Hicks**, **Mike Marshall**, Scott Robisch).

Georgetown (**Ruben Boumtje Boumtje**, **Nat Burton**, Rhese Gibson, **Jameel Watkins**).

Illinois (Robert Archibald, Cleotis Brown, **Brian Cook**, Victor Chukwudebe, **Marcus Griffin**, Lucas Johnson, Damir Krupalija, **Sergio McClain**).

South Florida (**Chonsey Asbury,** Raheim Brown, Altron Jackson, **Scott Johnson**, Artha Reeves, **B.B. Waldon**).

Villanova (**Malik Allen**, **T.J. Caouette**, Aaron Matthews, **Brooks Sales,** Andrew Sullivan**,** Ricky Wright).

West Virginia (**Jamar Gaither**, **Marcus Goree**, Keith Kincade, **Chris Moss**, John Oliver).

UNIT Rankings

BACKCOURT

(Projected starters in bold)

1. **Ohio State** (Brian Brown, Slobodan Savovic, **Michael Redd**, **Scoonie Penn**). The Penn-Redd pairing is unmatched. Brown is a plugger, and Savovic provides shooting touch.
2. **Michigan State** (**Charlie Bell**, **Mateen Cleaves**, Mike Chappell, Lorenzo Guess, Jason Richardson, David Thomas). The Spartans will leave it to Cleaves, which is just fine with shooters Bell, Guess and Chappell, a Duke transfer. Richardson is a big-time freshman.
3. **Florida** (Teddy Dupay, **LaDarius Halton**, Justin Hamilton, Brett Nelson, **Kenyan Weaks**). These guys are the Go-Go Gators, which is why super recruit Nelson opted to sign.
4. **Oklahoma State** (**Joe Adkins**, Glendon Alexander, Zac Cazzelle, **Doug Gottlieb**, Daniel Lawson). Sure, Gottlieb can't shoot, but he led the nation in assists last year. The Cowboys leave the shooting to Adkins and Alexander.
5. **St. John's** (**Erick Barkley**, Chudney Gray, Lavor Postell, **Bootsy Thornton**). It's not a deep unit, but Barkley (the point) and Thornton (the off-guard) are a duo with few peers. Postell swings down from a forward slot to provide muscle.
6. **Kansas** (Luke Axtell, **Jeff Boschee**, **Kenny Gregory**, Kirk Hinrich, Marlon London). Axtell, a Texas transfer, and Hinrich, a hyped freshman, will increase the speed. Look for Boschee to play with more control and Gregory to be the scorer.
7. **Seton Hall** (**Shaheen Holloway**, **Rimas Kaukenas**, Darius Lane, Gary Saunders). Holloway knows how to get the ball to scorers Kaukenas and Saunders. Coaches think Lane may emerge.
8. **Oregon** (David Jackson, Frederick Jones, **Alex Scales**, **Darius Wright**). The Ducks think it will be hard to keep up with Jones, but Scales may be the best option. He can score, rebound and steal. Wright controls the remote of the offense.
9. **Missouri** (**Keyon Dooling**, Clarence Gilbert, **Brian Grawer**, Jeff Hafer, Josh Kroenke, Johnnie Parker). There's lots to like in hiccup-fast Dooling, floor leader Grawer, sweet-shooting Gilbert and relentless Hafer.
10. **Massachusetts** (**Shannon Crooks**, Jonathan DePina, Jovann Johnson, **Monty Mack**). Mack and Crooks may combine to average 35 points, and JC arrival Johnson will score off the bench.

TEN other formidable BACKCOURTS

Arizona State (**Eddie House**, **Alton Mason**, Awvee Storey).

Arkansas (T.J. Cleveland, **Brandon Dean**, Jason Gilbert, Sergerio Gipson, Charles Tatum, **Chris Walker**).

Auburn (Jamison Brewer, Daymeon Fishback, Jay Heard, **Scott Pohlman**, **Doc Robinson**, Reggie Sharp).

Illinois (**Cory Bradford**, Sean Harrington, Jerrance Howard, Nate Mast, **Frank Williams**).

UNC-Charlotte (Demon Brown, **Diego Guevara**, Dalonte Hill, **Jobey Thomas**, James Zimmerman).

NC State (Clifford Crawford, **Justin Gainey**, **Anthony Grundy**, Archie Miller, Tim Wells, Marshall Williams).

Santa Clara (**Delano D'Oyen**, Nathan Fast, **Brian Jones**).

SMU (Willie Davis, **Chad Elsey**, Damon Hancock, **Jeryl Sasser**, **Stephen Woods**).

UTEP (Victor Luces, **Eggie McRae**, Jarvis Mullahon, **Rico Nelson**, **William Smith**).

Washington (Bryan Brown, **Senque Carey**, Michael Johnson, **Deon Luton**).



JEFF REINKING FOR TSN

Lights out: *Florida's Weaks sizzled late last season after struggling during the winter, and he'll have even more support this season.*

EIGHT underrated BACKCOURTS

Bradley (Kevin Clancy, **Rob Dye**, **Eric Roberson**, Jerome Robinson).

Detroit (Darius Belin, **Desmond Ferguson**, Willie Green, **Rashad Phillips**, Ronnie Walton).

Indiana (Dane Fife, **A.J. Guyton**, Luke Jimenez, **Michael Lewis**).

Iowa (Kyle Galloway, **Ryan Luehrsmann**, **Dean Oliver**, Jason Price).

Oregon State (Josiah Lake, Adam Masten, **Josh Steinthal**, **Deaundra Tanner**).

Southwest Missouri State (**Kevin Ault**, **William Fontleroy**, Allen Phillips, Nic Wright).

Temple (Lynn Greer, **Pepe Sanchez**, **Quincy Wadley**).

Wake Forest (**Craig Dawson**, Broderick Hicks, **Robert O'Kelley**).

CONFERENCE rankings

1. Big Ten
2. SEC
3. Pac-10
4. ACC
5. Big East
6. Conference USA
7. Big 12
8. Mountain West
9. Atlantic 10
10. Western Athletic
11. Missouri Valley
12. Mid-American
13. Midwestern Collegiate
14. West Coast
15. Big West
16. America East
17. Metro Atlantic
18. Ohio Valley
19. Colonial Athletic
20. Southern
21. Sun Belt
22. Mid-Continent
23. Ivy
24. Big Sky
25. Trans America Athletic
26. Northeast
27. Mid-Eastern Athletic
28. Southwestern Athletic
29. Southland
30. Big South
31. Patriot
Independents



Still room to improve: *Cory Bradford (right), the Big Ten Freshman of the Year and an all-league tournament selection, intends to be a super sophomore this season for contending Illinois.*

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Inside dish

Atlantic 10

RANK 9

ASCENDING: Dayton. The time is now for the Flyers, who must learn that the basketball is the same size and weight at opposing schools and that the court is the same size as the one at Dayton Arena. If this team can win some road games (it was 1-9 last year away from home), an NCAA Tournament berth is not out of the question. The Flyers go two-deep at every position and have some top-flight talent. It's time to make a move.

DESCENDING: Rhode Island. Last season's league tournament champion lost plenty, most notably forward Lamar Odom. No trip to the basement is pending, but URI will neither command the attention nor match the 20 wins it had last season. New coach Jerry DeGregorio has a lot of young talent at his disposal, but it will take some time to get it all together.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Odom's. All LSU transfer Leroy Womack has to do at Rhode Island is step in for the man who scored the most points for the Rams, led the team in rebounding, ran the offense, passed like a point guard (though he was 6-9) and filled the arena. Odom was the fourth overall pick in the NBA draft and will be a full-fledged star.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: La Salle's Donnie Carr. Last season, Carr averaged more points, rebounds and assists than Xavier's Lenny Brown and played 39.8 minutes per game. Still, Brown was on the all-league first team, and Carr made the second squad. Carr is much more than the gunner who played without a conscience three years ago. He's a top-flight college guard.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: No one in the Atlantic 10 this year. The league is loaded with young players, and no one has yet underachieved to the point of getting stuck with this label.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: DeGregorio hasn't coached a game yet at Rhode Island, but he has some huge expectations to meet. The school is trying to raise money for a new arena, and the program is coming off a 20-win season that created excitement throughout the state. But DeGregorio takes over a team that doesn't have Odom. The school even passed over some proven college coaches to hire DeGregorio, who must win quickly or suffer the consequences.

BEST BETS: Xavier guard Darnell Williams will be a first-round NBA draft pick (and possibly a lottery selection), if his knee is fully healed. He's that good. ... Temple again will play one of the nation's toughest schedules, thanks to a non-league slate that includes Maryland, Cincinnati, Indiana, Wake Forest, Gonzaga, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Florida State.

ODDS AND ENDS: The bench turnover continues. Three new coaches join the ranks this season, bringing the number of changes in the past two years to five. Ricky Stokes takes over for ousted Bobby Hussey at Virginia Tech, DeGregorio replaced Jim Harrick at Rhode Island and former NBA boss Bob Hill is in at Fordham. ... This will mark Xavier's final year in the 10,100-seat Cincinnati Gardens. Although the new Cintas Arena, which will be ready for action well before the start of the 2000-01 season, will be filled with all the amenities of modern sporting cash registers, it will have to go a long way to match the old-style character of the Gardens. ... George Washington coach Tom Penders needs two wins to reach 500 for his career. Temple's John Chaney reached 600 last year. ... If you think old-timers don't have pull in the world of college athletics, remember that former La Salle standout (and one of the greatest players in college history) Tom Gola was a major force in the drive to get coach Speedy Morris' contract renewed last spring. Morris, who directed the Explorers to an 8-8 league mark, was re-upped for three years.

By Michael Bradley
Freelance writer based in Philadelphia

Predictions

East Division	West Division
1. Temple	1. Xavier
2. Massachusetts	2. Dayton
3. Rhode Island	3. George Washington
4. St. Joseph's	4. La Salle
5. St. Bonaventure	5. Virginia Tech
6. Fordham	6. Duquesne

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Monty Mack, Massachusetts	6-3	200	Sr.
G	Pepe Sanchez, Temple	6-4	198	Sr.
F	Lamont Barnes, Temple	6-10	230	Sr.
F	Mark Karcher, Temple	6-5	220	Jr.
F/G	Darnell Williams, Xavier	6-5	205	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Donnie Carr, La Salle	6-3	212	Sr.
G	Bevon Robin, Fordham	6-2	200	Jr.
C	Mark Ashman, Dayton	6-10	230	Sr.
F	Rolan Roberts, Virginia Tech	6-6	237	Jr.
C	Kevin Lyde, Temple	6-9	249	So.

Player of the Year

Pepe Sanchez, G, Temple

Newcomer of the Year

Zach Marbury, G, Rhode Island

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Victor Thomas, La Salle
Best rebounder: Andre Howard, St. Joseph's
Best playmaker: Pepe Sanchez, Temple
Best defender: Tim Winn, St. Bonaventure
Best leaper: Tavorris Bell, Rhode Island
Most versatile: Donnie Carr, La Salle
Most flamboyant: Tavorris Bell, Rhode Island
Best NBA prospect: Darnell Williams, Xavier

Ranking the Recruiting



1. George Washington: Val Brown and Bernard Barrow bring help to point.
2. Duquesne: Point Devin Montgomery is speedy and will let the team run.
3. Rhode Island: Highly touted Zach Marbury should challenge at point.
4. Xavier: Guard Lionel Chalmers can set up teammates and score.
5. Massachusetts: Jovann Johnson can come off the bench for points.
6. Dayton: Brooks Hall is a shooter who should provide some depth.
7. Virginia Tech: Tony Dobbins will get a chance to start in the backcourt.
8. Temple: Alex Wesby can hit the outside shot and pound the boards.
9. St. Bonaventure: Guard Eric Siegrist brings a sharp-shooting eye.
10. Fordham: Phil Dupree should make an impact up front.
11. La Salle: Aleksander Pavlovich will see plenty of playing time.
12. St. Joseph's: Two transfers could make up the backcourt.

More on the Atlantic 10 at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. Temple

NATIONAL RANK 8

Schedule

N21	Miami (Ohio)
N26	Indiana
N29	at Florida State
D4	at Wake Forest
D8	Gonzaga*
D15	Villanova
D22	Penn State
D27	at Cleveland State
D29	at Wisconsin
J5	Rhode Island
J8	St. Joseph's
J12	at Fordham
J15	at St. Bonaventure
J18	at La Salle
J20	Pennsylvania
J22	Virginia Tech
J25	Xavier
J29	Duquesne
F1	at Massachusetts
F5	at Rhode Island
F10	Fordham
F13	Maryland
F17	at Dayton
F20	at Cincinnati
F24	St. Bonaventure
F26	Massachusetts
F29	at St. Joseph's
M4	at George Washington

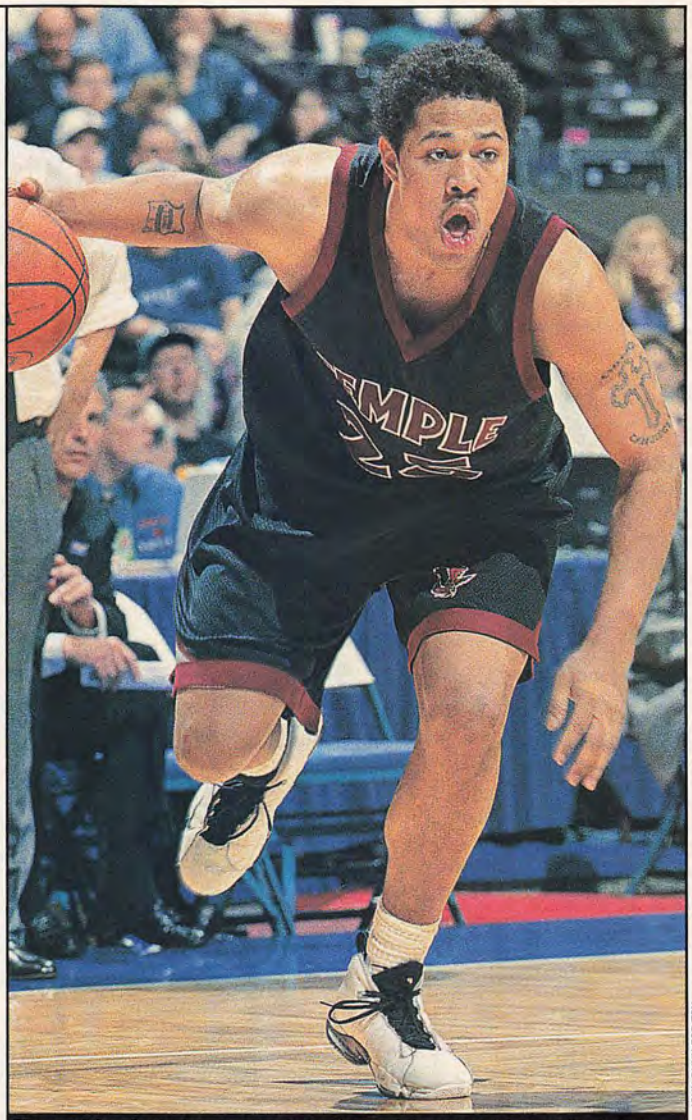
*Chicago

Frontcourt: Everybody knows John Chaney loves guards, but he has to be pretty happy with his forwards, too. Sophomore Kevin Lyde is a rarity in college basketball these days—a 6-9, 240-pound player who actually prefers to play with his back to the bucket. Lyde also would rather spend the season not worrying about getting hacked on his left arm, which was injured most of last season. Now healthy, Lyde can concentrate on developing a patient approach to using what could become an impressive low-post arsenal. Lyde's presence means another year at the 4-spot for senior Lamont Barnes—a good thing because that's where his professional future lies. But Barnes must become more comfortable away from the basket and learn to score within the framework of Temple's patterned offense as a forward, not a post-up player. Expect big things from junior forward Mark Karcher, whose frame and game are reminiscent of Adrian Dantley. An excellent driver possessing fine post moves, Karcher has to improve his outside shot and ballhandling to become a true star. Huge sophomore Ron Rollerson backs up Lyde and has a nice shooting touch, but he needs to become more assertive on defense and the backboards. That's not a problem for Alex Wesby, a 6-6 sophomore who missed last year as a partial qualifier. He'll bang inside and can even step out and hit the mid-range jumper. Senior forward Keaton Sanders has a fair stroke but needs to become more active on the boards.

Backcourt: Maybe if senior point guard Pepe Sanchez beat his chest, growled at the cameras and generally walked about with a "look-at-me" attitude, he might be recognized as one of college basketball's best. Sanchez is unflappable with the ball and plays ballhawking defense atop the Temple zone. He had a remarkable 3:1 assist-to-turnover ratio last season and is an underrated rebounder. Expect senior Quincy Wadley to line up next to Sanchez. A gifted long-range gunner, Wadley needs to become more reliable off the dribble. He has a history of making big shots and is a confident defender. Junior Lynn Greer will back up both, and no one should be fooled by his slight frame. Greer is a fine shooter and excellent ballhandler who won't wilt when opponents harass him.

Key to success: Karcher and Barnes must become reliable frontcourt scorers for the Owls, who can't expect huge scoring numbers from the backcourt. Each has the skills to be big producers, but both need to exercise better judgment with the ball and avoid long dry spells.

Outlook: Temple scores high in just about all categories. It has great experience. Its backcourt is stable, if not exceedingly deep. There is beef and versatility on the front line. Chaney remains one of the game's top coaches. And we haven't even mentioned the vaunted Owls defense, which is capable of turning the most confident rival into a mass of quivering jelly. Temple advanced to the Elite Eight last season, and there is no reason to expect anything less than a repeat. Sanchez is a marvelous floor leader, and Karcher has the potential to become one of the nation's best small forwards. Chaney signed a contract extension during the offseason that locks him up through 2002, but his time is running out. This is the team that just might get him to his first Final Four.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

The next level: *Karcher, a Dantley look-alike, needs to score points as well as he can drive to the basket to lead the Owls to Chaney's first Final Four berth.*

Owls DATA

Coach: John Chaney (380-160, 17 years; 605-219 overall, 27 years; 19-15 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 24-11. Atlantic 10 East: 13-3/1st. Lost to Duke in NCAA East final.
Last league title: 1999 (Atlantic 10 East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Forum at the Apollo of Temple (10,206).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	F	Lamont Barnes*	6-10	Sr.	12.9	6.7	0.7	54.7	63.0	00.0
44	F	M. Cellou Barry	6-8	So.	0.7	0.8	0.0	20.0	—	—
14	G	Lynn Greer	6-1	Jr.	10.2	1.5	1.3	38.0	76.5	35.7
1	F	Greg Jefferson	6-5	Fr.	Top L.A. high school prospect moves east.					
25	F	Mark Karcher*	6-5	Jr.	13.4	5.8	2.2	36.7	64.9	29.4
42	C	Kevin Lyde*	6-9	So.	7.4	5.9	0.4	48.3	50.5	—
30	C	Ronald Rollerson	6-10	So.	1.8	1.1	0.0	56.1	56.5	—
4	G	Pepe Sanchez*	6-4	Sr.	8.2	5.2	5.8	34.6	73.3	26.1
15	F	Keaton Sanders	6-6	Sr.	1.8	1.9	0.3	39.7	36.4	20.0
40	F	Rouldra Thomas	6-7	Jr.	JC transfer will need to work on his passing.					
33	G	Quincy Wadley	6-4	Sr.	9.2	3.2	0.9	37.7	71.2	36.1
23	F	Alex Wesby	6-6	So.	Rebounding skills will earn him playing time.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Rasheed Brokenborough*	6-4	11.6	3.7	2.7	38.2	79.6	32.5

2. Massachusetts

NATIONAL RANK 37

Frontcourt: Chris Kirkland didn't win the league's MVP award last season, but there wouldn't have been many arguments if he had. Kirkland went from a role player to a featured performer and ended up as the Minutemen's second-leading scorer in league games. The next challenge for the 6-6 senior is to maintain his confidence through a full season against teams that will pay extra attention to him. Kirkland might be an extremely popular man, particularly if junior center Kitwana Rhymer doesn't mature into a legitimate post option. Senior Mike Babul is back at the other forward spot to provide some of the country's best wing defense.

Backcourt: Coach Bruiser Flint thinks he has the league's top backcourt, and he may be right—provided St. John's transfer Shannon Crooks is as good as Flint thinks. It will be interesting to see how the Bruiser deals with Crooks' shoot-first mentality, but Crooks is a strong defender and a high-energy player. He'll team with 2-man Monty Mack, a second-team all-league selection last season. Junior Jonathan DePina will back up Crooks but needs to cut back on turnovers and improve his shooting eye.

Key to success: Crooks must emerge as a viable point man, capable of running a team and not just scoring points.

Outlook: Flint thought a lack of chemistry torpedoed last year's tournament hopes and expects a far more harmonious environment this season. It also would help if the team could put the ball in the basket a little more frequently. Crooks will play a big role in that, and so should Kirkland, provided he's ready to be a featured performer. But the Minutemen won't thrive with only a perimeter attack. That's why Rhymer's development in the post is crucial.

Minutemen DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bruiser Flint (54-41, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-16. Atlantic 10 East: 9-7/3rd.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Amherst, Mass.
Home court: Mullins Center (9,493).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
23	F	Mike Babul*	6-6	Sr.	5.2	3.7	1.8	43.0	49.2	27.8
25	F	Ronell Blizzard	6-8	So.	1.8	2.1	0.0	42.9	0.0	0.0
	F/C	Micah Brand	6-10	Fr.	Longshot candidate to fill gaping hole at center.					
30	G	Shannon Crooks	6-2	So.	Transferred from St. John's.					
11	G	Darryl Denson	6-0	Jr.	2.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	—	0.0
10	G	Jonathan DePina	5-9	Jr.	1.8	0.8	1.4	34.0	41.2	33.3
	G/F	Jovann Johnson	6-3	Jr.	Could be double-figure scorer off the bench.					
22	F	Chris Kirkland*	6-6	Sr.	10.2	6.7	1.3	45.7	62.7	14.3
5	G	Monty Mack*	6-3	Sr.	18.1	4.1	1.8	42.2	77.8	37.1
0	C	Anthony Oates	6-10	Sr.	0.2	0.6	0.0	20.0	0.0	—
33	C/F	Kitwana Rhymer	6-10	Jr.	2.5	2.7	0.1	54.8	49.1	—
20	F	Winston Smith	6-5	Jr.	2.0	1.4	0.5	43.8	68.4	37.5

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Ajmal Basit	Transferred to Delaware.						
G	Charlton Clarke*	6-3	9.0	3.0	3.7	36.6	68.1	34.7
G	Rafael Cruz	Transferred to Youngstown State.						
C	Lari Ketner*	6-10	10.8	8.3	1.2	42.2	55.9	—

Schedule

N20 at Iona
N22 at Connecticut
N29 Marshall
D2 Boston University
D4 at Boston College
D6 Villanova
D11 at Detroit
D19 Florida State
D21-23 Puerto Rico Classic
D30 at Providence
J6 St. Bonaventure
J8 Fordham
J16 at St. Joseph's
J20 Dayton
J22 Rhode Island
J27 at Duquesne
J29 at Virginia Tech
F1 Temple
F5 Texas
F9 La Salle
F12 at Xavier
F16 at Fordham
F19 St. Joseph's
F22 at Rhode Island
F26 at Temple
F29 George Washington
M4 at St. Bonaventure

3. Rhode Island

NATIONAL RANK 65

Frontcourt: The Lamar Odom era came and went, and Rhode Island now goes back to being a team. Nowhere is that more evident than in the frontcourt, where a collection of newcomers joins Tavorris Bell and Luther Clay to form what will be a strong—but not spectacular—crew. That doesn't mean Bell won't wow patrons with his rim-rattling acrobatics, although it would be nice to see his shooting range expand past five feet. Clay is a steady player who needs to get more aggressive on the boards. Expect LSU transfer Leroy Womack to get first crack at power forward.

Backcourt: Zach Marbury is free from the confines of the NCAA Clearinghouse and should start immediately. The question is, where? Though his brother, Stephon, is a pure point, Zach has more of a scorer's mentality. That means steady work for sophomore Tip Vinson and 6-3 freshman Brian Woodward.

Key to success: The Rams need to stabilize their backcourt, particularly the point, the better to prevent the dry spells that plagued them throughout last season.

Outlook: New coach Jerry DeGregorio was unable to keep Odom in town, but he still has plenty of players, thanks to his ties to the Long Island Panthers AAU squad. The most intriguing is Marbury, who was built up to be something of a savior last year and must come in and stand out immediately. It would be nice if he could, because the Rams lost their three top scorers from last season and aren't blessed with too many big producers. Without Odom, there won't be the same buzz about the Rams as last season, but if everything goes right, there could be a good outcome.

Rams DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jerry DeGregorio (first year).
1998-99 record: 20-13. Atlantic 10 East: 10-6/2nd. Lost to UNC-Charlotte in NCAA Midwest first round.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1996.
Site: Kingston, R.I.
Home court: Keaney Gym (3,385); Providence Civic Center (12,641).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
14	F	Tavorris Bell*	6-6	So.	9.3	3.4	0.7	54.9	52.8	32.1
	F	Ivan Bracic	6-7	Fr.	Croatia native could be a surprise in the middle.					
11	C	Ed Brown	6-8	Sr.	5.5	4.3	1.1	50.7	68.3	0.0
	C	Joe Casper	6-10	Jr.	Big-time shot blocker in JC ranks will play a lot.					
35	C	Luther Clay*	6-9	Sr.	9.5	6.0	0.5	46.9	63.8	—
	G	Zach Marbury	6-3	Fr.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
24	G	David Smith	6-5	Sr.	1.5	0.5	0.1	37.5	70.0	50.0
13	G	Tip Vinson	6-4	So.	3.3	1.6	1.0	42.0	69.2	50.0
4	C	Andrew Wafula	6-10	So.	0.9	0.3	0.1	20.0	100.00	—
	F	Leroy Womack	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from LSU.					
	G	Brian Woodward	6-3	Fr.	Expected to play major role in first season.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	David Arigbabu	6-8	2.6	2.2	0.8	30.0	76.9	—
F	Tory Jefferson	6-6	Transferred to Niagara.					
G	Preston Murphy*	6-1	10.9	3.1	4.3	41.4	66.2	35.9
F	Lamar Odom*	6-10	17.6	9.4	3.8	48.2	68.7	33.0
F	Antonio Reynolds-Dean*	6-7	13.2	6.7	2.6	46.5	72.1	30.8

Schedule

N21 Tulsa
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D1 at Brown
D3 at Wisconsin
D7 Providence
D11 at UNC-Charlotte
D14 at San Francisco
D18 Akron
D27-28 Sierra Providence SunClassic
J5 at Temple
J9 Xavier
J11 at Siena
J15 at La Salle
J18 Duquesne
J22 at Massachusetts
J25 St. Joseph's
J29 at St. Bonaventure
F1 at Fordham
F5 Temple
F9 at St. Joseph's
F12 Virginia Tech
F16 St. Bonaventure
F19 at George Washington
F22 Massachusetts
F26 at Dayton
M4 Fordham

4. St. Joseph's

NATIONAL RANK 132

Frontcourt: The Hawks have no stars, but they do have plenty of depth and lots of versatility. Take William & Mary transfer Bill Phillips, who goes 6-9 but can play either forward position. He may be teamed at times with senior Andre Howard, who last year demonstrated the ability to score close to the hoop and rebound well. If St. Joe's wants to go big, it can use those two with sophomore center Damian Reid, although coach Phil Martelli is concerned because the 6-9 pivot dropped about 20 pounds over the summer. That won't help on the backboards or defensively.

Backcourt: Although he doesn't want to turn the Hawks into a pressing, harassing team, Martelli would like to use St. Joseph's depth to pick up the tempo and perhaps wear down some teams. That means the guards must become more reliable. Sophomore point Larry Jennings was steady last year and must improve his creativity, particularly in the halfcourt. If he can't do it, senior shooter Tim Brown will take over, but the Hawks will sacrifice some ballhandling in the process. Don't be surprised if Villanova transfer Marvin O'Connor gets to initiate the offense from the wing.

Key to success: The Hawks, usually starved for offense, need to find ways to get some easy baskets rather than rely on a countless string of often fruitless halfcourt sets.

Outlook: Martelli has a lot of options but no guaranteed standouts. That might not be a bad thing, if everybody stays healthy and buys into his new go-go philosophy. You can always count on the Hawks to play hard and work defensively, but that won't be enough when nobody can put the ball in the hoop.

Hawks DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Phil Martelli (68-55, 4 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-18. Atlantic 10 East: 5-11/T5th.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Philadelphia.
Home court: Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse (2,200).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Tim Brown	6-3	Sr.	7.0	1.4	1.7	43.7	72.9	39.6
20	G	N'aim Crenshaw*	6-5	Jr.	10.7	3.3	2.9	36.1	60.5	37.9
13	G	John Gallagher	6-0	Sr.	0.9	0.5	0.2	40.0	66.7	50.0
44	F	Robert Haskins*	6-8	Sr.	8.6	5.1	1.6	35.8	35.8	32.7
40	F	Andre Howard*	6-7	Sr.	11.9	8.4	2.3	40.3	63.6	50.0
3	G	Larry Jennings*	6-1	So.	6.3	1.7	2.8	37.7	82.3	16.1
5	G	Ryan Leib	6-0	Sr.	0.4	0.1	0.4	33.3	—	50.0
10	G	Phil Martelli Jr.	5-10	Fr.	If the coach's son has game, he'll play.					
55	F	Lionel Ngounou	6-8	Jr.	0.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	28.6	—
11	G	Marvin O'Connor	6-4	So.	Transferred from Villanova.					
24	F	Bill Phillips	6-9	So.	Transferred from William & Mary.					
25	C	Damian Reid*	6-9	So.	9.4	7.8	0.5	48.3	61.9	00.0
51	C	Alexandre Sazonov	7-1	So.	3.2	2.5	0.2	48.0	54.8	—
21	F	Frank Wilkins	6-9	Jr.	8.0	3.5	0.9	39.4	72.6	30.8
31	G	Erick Woods	6-5	Jr.	0.9	0.3	0.3	27.3	88.9	25.0
14	G	Matt Zielenbach	6-2	Sr.	0.3	0.4	0.0	25.0	0.0	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Chy Chy Ikenokwalu	6-7	0.3	0.9	0.1	50.0	50.0	—
G	Michael Mazzio	6-3	1.0	0.5	0.6	33.3	50.0	25.0

Schedule

N27 Western Kentucky
N29 Tulsa
D3-4 Carrier Classic
D8 Rutgers
D11 at Villanova
D21 South Carolina
D23 at UT-Chattanooga
D29-30 Lobo Invitational
J5 at Fordham
J8 at Temple
J12 at St. Bonaventure
J16 Massachusetts
J19 George Washington
J22 at Duquesne
J25 at Rhode Island
J29 Dayton
F3 at Virginia Tech
F9 Rhode Island
F13 Fordham
F15 La Salle
F19 at Massachusetts
F26 St. Bonaventure
F29 Temple
M5 at Xavier

5. St. Bonaventure

NATIONAL RANK 174

Frontcourt: This is not an overwhelming strength. Caswell Cyrus is one of the nation's top shot blockers (3.0 per game), but it's time for him to mature offensively beyond layups, dunks and putbacks. The Bonnies don't have any real interior options beyond him. Quadir Habeeb, a burly 6-8, 240-pound recruit, didn't qualify academically and will attend prep school. Highly regarded swingman Robert Cheeks will get a shot, and Peter Van Paassen needs to become more aggressive underneath. Elton Ruddock and Andy Stinson must provide depth.

Backcourt: Tim Winn proved to be one of the league's most exciting point men. He distributes well, plays tenacious defense and is on target from the foul line. Now, he must cut back on turnovers and shoot better from the field. If he solves those problems, the Bonnies will have a deadly weapon. Expect to see Winn and J.R. Bremer on the court at the same time. Bremer is another blur with good penetration skills and defensive aggressiveness. David Capers will handle the 2-spot and is the best outside shooter on the team. Eric Siegrist adds a sharp-shooting eye.

Key to success: The Bonnies must find some depth and production along the front line beyond Cyrus and Van Paassen, or they will be abused down low by the league's better teams.

Outlook: Another big body who can score along the baseline would make the Bonnies extremely dangerous. Capers has the potential to be a valuable weapon. Few players provide the defensive security Cyrus does, and Bremer and Siegrist are a valuable second guard line. It won't be easy to play this team, particularly in Olean, but it lacks the size to be a contender.

Bonnies DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jim Baron (93-109, 7 years; 167-180 overall, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-15. Atlantic 10 East: 8-8/T4th.
Last league title: 1983 (tie, A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1978.
Site: Olean, N.Y.
Home court: Reilly Center (6,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	J.R. Bremer	6-1	So.	9.3	3.5	2.3	34.2	75.3	23.7
3	G	David Capers*	6-3	Sr.	11.2	4.8	1.9	44.5	69.7	33.7
10	G/F	Robert Cheeks	6-5	So.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
21	C	Caswell Cyrus*	6-9	Sr.	12.1	6.9	0.6	48.1	51.3	00.0
24	F	Bob Dziengeleski	6-5	Jr.	3.0	2.0	0.3	50.0	80.0	40.0
32	G	James Hayden	6-3	Sr.	2.7	1.3	0.4	50.0	58.3	33.3
5	G/F	Vidal Massiah	6-6	So.	1.4	1.8	0.3	35.0	45.0	10.0
40	F	Hamilton Rucker	6-7	Fr.	Averaged 16.0 ppg and 8.0 rpg last year in H.S.					
44	F	Elton Ruddock	6-8	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
30	G	Eric Siegrist	6-3	Fr.	Holds N.Y. high school record for 3-pointers.					
35	F	Andy Stinson	6-6	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—
33	F/C	Peter Van Paassen*	6-11	Jr.	6.9	4.6	0.4	49.1	67.2	00.0
11	G	Tim Winn*	5-10	Sr.	13.0	4.3	5.7	37.6	82.9	23.1

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Isaac King*	6-5	9.9	4.2	0.7	34.4	71.0	26.8
F	Terrence Durham	6-7	3.2	4.2	0.4	42.4	52.8	0.0
G	Jermaine Ellis	Transferred.						

Schedule

N19 Northeastern
N23 at UNC-Charlotte
N27-28 Sparkletts Invit.
D4 USC
D11 at Canisius
D18 at Fla. International
D21 Kent
D30 Cleveland State
J3 Niagara
J6 at Massachusetts
J9 at La Salle
J12 St. Joseph's
J15 Temple
J22 at Fordham
J26 at George Washington
J29 Rhode Island
F6 Fordham
F10 Virginia Tech
F12 at Dayton
F16 at Rhode Island
F19 Duquesne
F24 at Temple
F26 at St. Joseph's
M1 Xavier
M4 Massachusetts

6. Fordham

NATIONAL RANK 234

Frontcourt: Alejandro Olivares had to play in the pivot, not his natural position, but he wasn't uncomfortable, earning the league's Most Improved Player Award. With Sasa Mijajlovic on the academic shelf, Olivares might have to spend considerable time in the middle again, unless new coach Bob Hill goes with a spread-the-floor attack. Still, the junior has a nice shooting touch and is willing to mix it up. But he needs help. Duke McKamey showed flashes of being a baseline complement. Now, he must work on his consistency. Expect freshman Phil Dupree to make an impact up front. Teremun Johnson has the potential to be a valuable frontcourt reserve, and John Pugh needs to assert himself underneath.

Backcourt: There aren't many better in the A-10 than Bevon Robin, a second-team all-league choice who should thrive under Hill. Robin shoots, handles the ball and can play defense well. He's an exciting player. Running mate Jason Harris doesn't get the publicity Robin does, but he is a strong 3-point shooter and plays good defense. Scott Harmatuk is a reliable point reserve.

Key to success: Developing some frontcourt depth will allow Olivares some freedom from double- and triple-teams and keep him from incurring consistent foul trouble.

Outlook: Hill should continue Fordham's slow climb to league contention. Just don't expect a postseason run. Robin, Olivares and Harris form a good nucleus, but there is little depth. That should change over the next couple of years as Hill uses his NBA pedigree to sell recruits on the opportunity to develop into professionals. Hill is a drawing card. He also knows enough about the game to guide the Rams to a couple of upsets this season.

Rams DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bob Hill (first year).
1998-99 record: 12-15. Atlantic 10 East: 5-11/T5th.
Last league title: 1994 (tie, Patriot).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Bronx, N.Y.
Home court: Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Ken Aponte	6-2	Jr.	0.8	0.0	0.2	33.3	—	00.0
	F	Mike Bayer	6-7	Fr.	Product of famed Mater Dei (Calif.) HS program.					
24	F	Steve Canal	6-6	So.	3.2	2.7	0.7	59.6	64.7	—
21	G	Ray Carroll	6-3	Sr.	4.0	2.3	0.6	31.8	61.8	26.1
	F	Chris Duckrey	6-6	Fr.	Averaged 20.0 ppg and 11.0 rpg last year in HS.					
	F	Phil Dupree	6-6	Fr.	Averaged 17.8 ppg and 12.5 rpg last year in HS.					
22	G	Scott Harmatuk	6-4	Sr.	5.5	1.2	0.8	37.1	70.5	42.9
3	G	Jason Harris*	5-9	Jr.	11.3	3.8	2.8	38.1	67.3	36.0
5	F	Teremun Johnson*	6-6	So.	2.8	3.0	1.4	47.1	20.8	33.3
44	F	Arseni Kuchinsky	6-7	Jr.	1.2	0.5	0.3	33.3	33.3	16.7
42	F	Duke McKamey	6-9	So.	3.0	2.5	0.2	35.9	57.1	50.0
13	F	Alejandro Olivares*	6-8	Jr.	15.0	5.9	1.1	47.7	73.6	26.9
50	F/C	John Pugh	6-10	Jr.	2.0	1.5	0.2	39.0	61.5	—
15	G	Bevon Robin*	6-2	Jr.	17.0	3.6	3.6	39.8	83.8	30.7

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Greg Griffin*	6-5	2.7	4.0	0.9	34.6	68.4	00.0
G	Billy Lovett	6-0	1.1	0.4	0.5	33.3	62.5	00.0

Schedule

N16-26 Preseason NIT
N27 at Holy Cross
N29 at Fairfield
D4 Long Island
D8 Manhattan
D10 at Iona
D12 at Connecticut
D21 Quinnipiac
D26-27 ECAC Holiday Festival
J2 at Providence
J5 St. Joseph's
J8 at Massachusetts
J12 Temple
J15 Dayton
J19 at Virginia Tech
J22 St. Bonaventure
J30 at Xavier
F1 Rhode Island
F6 at St. Bonaventure
F10 at Temple
F13 at St. Joseph's
F16 Massachusetts
F19 La Salle
F23 at Duquesne
F26 George Washington
M4 at Rhode Island

WEST DIVISION

1. Xavier

NATIONAL RANK 51

Frontcourt: This is an area of concern. Replacing the versatile James Posey will be impossible, so coach Skip Prosser must hope sophomores Kevin Frey and Aaron Turner can team with hefty (6-9, 250) JC banger Marcus Mason to form a productive front wall. They don't have to score much, but they must play better defense than last season, the real key to Xavier's success. Turner showed signs of having the necessary skills during his 20-game freshman campaign. Frey brings many of the same expectations.

Backcourt: The Musketeers are thrilled about the return of off-guard Darnell Williams, who missed last season with a torn ACL. Williams has the whole package–provided his knee allows him to play at the same high level he did two seasons ago. His return is vital–Xavier must find a way to replace the points and leadership of departed four-year starters Lenny Brown and Gary Lumpkin. Equally vital is consistent, mature play from junior guard Maurice McAfee, who displayed spunk during his extensive backup work last year. McAfee can shoot and dish, and his speed will help the Musketeers ratchet up the intensity at both ends.

Key to success: Williams must come back healthy. If he can play the way he did in 1997-98, Xavier will not miss Posey, Lumpkin and Brown quite so much.

Outlook: Xavier may not be as exciting offensively as it has been, but you can bet Prosser wants to get the team's defense back to the predatory levels of 1997-98. The Musketeers were vulnerable in the paint last season, something that should change with the arrival of Mason and the continued growth of Frey and Turner. In a devalued West Division, this group looks like the class.

Musketeers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Skip Prosser (106-45, 5 years; 123-58 overall, 6 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 25-11. Atlantic 10 West: 12-4/2nd. Lost to Clemson in NIT semifinals.
Last league title: 1998 (tie, A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Cincinnati.
Home court: Cincinnati Gardens (10,100).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
52	F	James Baronas	6-8	So.	0.0	0.3	0.0	00.0	—	—
24	G	Alvin Brown	6-3	So.	2.3	0.7	0.2	34.8	90.0	21.4
55	C	Reggie Butler	6-10	Jr.	1.6	1.3	0.1	48.0	56.3	—
5	G	Lionel Chalmers	6-0	Fr.	Has a good chance of playing right away.					
45	F	Kevin Frey*	6-8	So.	5.7	5.0	0.7	42.1	71.6	29.6
31	F/C	Obi Harris	6-10	Sr.	1.8	1.8	0.1	51.4	52.6	—
40	C	Marcus Mason	6-9	Jr.	Averaged 13.3 ppg and 8.5 rpg in JC last year.					
15	G	Maurice McAfee	6-0	Jr.	8.2	1.7	2.5	40.9	83.5	37.2
20	G/F	Brandon McIntosh	6-5	So.	Sat out 1998-99 season.					
34	G/F	Lloyd Price	6-5	So.	8.7	4.1	1.2	46.9	64.5	21.7
44	F	Aaron Turner*	6-7	So.	5.4	5.2	0.7	50.0	50.0	00.0
30	F	David West	6-8	Fr.	Brings needed athleticism to the frontcourt.					
32	G	Darnell Williams	6-5	Sr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Lenny Brown*	6-2	18.1	3.6	2.8	44.7	79.8	39.5
G	Gary Lumpkin*	6-2	11.1	2.4	3.4	39.4	73.5	29.9
F	James Posey*	6-8	16.9	8.9	2.3	48.8	81.4	36.6
F	Desmond Walker	6-8	5.6	4.2	0.6	52.8	58.1	—

Schedule

N20 Md.-Eastern Shore
N25-27 Great Alaska Shootout
D4 East Tennessee St.
D8 at Miami (Ohio)
D11 at Central Michigan
D18 Cincinnati
D21 St. Mary's
D27 Princeton
D30 Toledo
J2 at Marquette
J6 Virginia Tech
J9 at Rhode Island
J11 at Dayton
J15 at Duquesne
J23 La Salle
J25 at Temple
J30 Fordham
F2 Dayton
F5 at George Washington
F9 at Canisius
F12 Massachusetts
F15 Duquesne
F19 at Virginia Tech
F22 George Washington
F27 at La Salle
M1 at St. Bonaventure
M5 St. Joseph's

2. Dayton

NATIONAL RANK 120

Frontcourt: Mark Ashman has been steady, particularly as a scorer, but hasn't become a dominating rebounder or defender. Coach Oliver Purnell expects a big season from him, but even if that doesn't happen, Ashman still is a reliable low-block option who has nights when he plays like a star. Expect Stephen Bamigbola to be a reliable backup, but don't look for much offense. Figure the No. 4 spot to be handled by committee. Freshman Nate Green was starting last year when he hurt his shoulder and was granted a redshirt season, and athletic Yuanta Holland is strong on the break. The loss of Coby Turner hurts, but the arrival of swingman Brooks Hall will ease some of the sting. Hall is a fine all-around prospect who shoots, passes, rebounds, defends and understands the game. Keith Waleskowski adds some fine shooting to the mix.

Backcourt: Two proven point guards in Edwin Young and David Morris. It's unfortunate, however, that each spent much of last year proving he couldn't shoot. Young is an excellent distributor and defender who must make defenses respect his outside shot—at least a little. The same goes for the speedy Morris. Tony Stanley returns, but he must overcome last year's shaky second half or risk losing minutes to Hall or shooter Cain Doliboa.

Key to success: The Flyers must prove they can win on the road (1-9 last season). With their nucleus, they should be .500 away from home.

Outlook: Two deep at every position, with Ashman, Stanley and Young eager to take the next step. Adding Hall makes the Flyers more athletic. The potential is there—it's time to realize it.

Flyers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Oliver Purnell (67-77, 5 years; 168-152 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 11-17. Atlantic 10 West: 5-11/5th.
Last league title: 1998 (A-10 West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Dayton, Ohio.
Home court: Univ. of Dayton Arena (13,455).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
34	C/F	Mark Ashman*	6-10	Sr.	15.2	5.8	0.6	46.3	79.2	12.5
24	C	Stephen Bamigbola	6-9	Sr.	2.4	3.1	0.0	41.2	51.3	—
44	C	Matt Cooper	6-10	Sr.	0.5	0.9	0.1	30.8	55.6	—
11	G	Cain Doliboa	6-7	Jr.	7.8	3.1	0.5	37.1	80.5	33.1
10	F	Ted Fitz	6-7	Sr.	2.1	1.9	0.7	56.4	50.0	—
5	F	Nate Green	6-6	So.	2.0	2.0	0.2	80.0	50.0	—
33	F/G	Brooks Hall	6-6	Fr.	Averaged 22.7 ppg and 11.5 rpg in HS last year.					
23	F	Yuanta Holland*	6-7	So.	4.1	3.0	0.3	47.2	50.8	—
21	G	Andy Metzler	6-3	Sr.	5.6	2.0	1.1	49.1	70.8	45.5
15	G	David Morris	5-10	So.	3.3	1.6	3.1	26.1	77.3	33.3
55	G	Nucleus Smith	6-2	Fr.	Team hopes he lives up to his name.					
12	G	Tony Stanley*	6-4	Jr.	15.0	5.6	0.9	41.0	76.3	32.3
45	F/C	Keith Waleskowski	6-9	Fr.	A shooter with some size.					
42	G	Edwin Young*	6-2	Sr.	5.6	2.5	4.4	28.4	81.9	21.4

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Coby Turner*	6-7	9.7	5.6	1.5	34.2	77.8	37.5

Schedule

N19-20 CoSIDA Classic
N26 Mount St. Mary's
N29 Kentucky
D1 Md.-Baltimore County
D4 Winthrop
D7 at Marquette
D11 Coastal Carolina
D18 at Cleveland State
D21 Texas A&M
D23 St. Louis
D29 Miami (Ohio)
J9 Virginia Tech
J11 Xavier
J15 at Fordham
J20 at Massachusetts
J22 George Washington
J25 La Salle
J29 at St. Joseph's
F2 at Xavier
F6 Duquesne
F9 at George Washington
F12 St. Bonaventure
F17 Temple
F23 at La Salle
F26 Rhode Island
M2 at Duquesne
M4 at Virginia Tech

3. Geo. Washington

NATIONAL RANK 172

Frontcourt: GW has plenty of parts but no dominant court personality. Patrick Ngongba has a ways to go. His offensive game is limited, and he has yet to be the glass-eater many expected him to be. The potential is there, along with the body (6-8, 238). Albert Roma works hard and has some tools but still is in the formative stages. Antxon Iturbe could be a double-figure scorer, albeit of the garbage man variety, if he could stay out of foul trouble. Look out for Jason Smith, who has bulked up to 230 pounds.

Backcourt: The big mission is to replace all-league standout Shawnta Rogers, who led the A-10 in four categories. Coach Tom Penders has imported Val Brown and Bernard Barrow to take on the challenge. Both can score, distribute and get to the basket and should see time together. When that happens, expect Mike King to swing to the 3-spot. He must become the main offensive threat, and he has the tools to do it. King also must continue to play sticky defense. An intriguing prospect is Chris Monroe, who can play any of three perimeter positions and should help considerably at the defensive end.

Key to success: Brown and Barrow must combine to provide close to the same effective play and leadership Rogers contributed during his four years at George Washington.

Outlook: Look for GW to press and run again, with Brown, Barrow and King leading the charge. If the interior players can become consistent scorers, the potential is there for a big season. The Colonials should challenge for another postseason berth, but whether they play in the NCAAs or the NIT will depend on how well the new guards perform and whether King can step up.

Colonials DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Tom Penders (20-9, 1 year; 498-328 overall, 28 years; 12-10 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-9. Atlantic 10 West: 13-3/1st. Lost to Indiana in NCAA South 1st round.
Last league title: 1999 (A-10 West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Washington, D.C.
Home court: Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
22	F	Arthur Andrews	6-6	Fr.	Walk-on practiced with the team last season.					
24	F	Sam Anyan	6-6	Sr.	1.0	1.3	0.0	33.3	33.3	—
12	G	Bernard Barrow	5-8	Jr.	Counted on to fill some holes.					
34	G/F	Dorien Brown	6-3	So.	2.1	1.2	0.2	41.5	22.2	40.0
13	G	Val Brown	6-1	Fr.	Slender, quick and a ballhandling wizard.					
14	F	Francisco de Miranda	6-9	Sr.	4.9	3.5	0.3	53.2	67.4	—
15	F	Antxon Iturbe*	6-8	Jr.	3.2	5.0	0.9	38.3	50.0	00.0
10	G/F	Valery Khamenia	6-8	Jr.	2.1	0.6	0.3	33.3	50.0	30.8
5	G	Mike King*	6-4	Jr.	15.1	5.2	2.4	39.8	69.8	23.8
11	G	Mark Lund	6-2	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	00.0	—	00.0
4	G	Chris Monroe	6-3	Fr.	At 220 lbs., was a fearsome rebounder in HS.					
35	F	Patrick Ngongba*	6-8	Jr.	7.0	5.6	0.6	56.9	77.1	25.0
3	C	Albert Roma	7-0	So.	1.7	2.0	0.3	33.3	64.3	00.0
31	F	Jason Smith	6-8	So.	Redshirted with abdominal hernia in 1998-99.					
25	G	Daniel Soares	6-3	Sr.	0.5	0.5	0.2	16.7	50.0	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Seco Camara	6-5	2.3	1.2	0.6	33.3	83.3	21.4
G	Roey Eyal	6-2		Returned to Israel.				
F	Yegor Mescheriakov*	6-8	17.6	6.8	2.1	45.3	75.5	29.7
G	Shawnta Rogers*	5-4	20.7	4.0	6.8	38.8	86.8	36.1
F	Andry Sola	6-7		Transferred to Drake.				

Schedule

N19-21 Top of the World Classic
N27 South Florida
N30 at Ohio
D4-5 BB&T Classic
D8 at Bradley
D11 Siena
D22 Clemson
D31 UNC-Charlotte
J3 at Old Dominion
J8 Duquesne
J12 American
J15 at Virginia Tech
J19 at St. Joseph's
J22 at Dayton
J26 St. Bonaventure
J29 La Salle
F2 at Duquesne
F5 Xavier
F9 Dayton
F12 at La Salle
F17 Virginia Tech
F19 Rhode Island
F22 at Xavier
F26 at Fordham
F29 at Massachusetts
M4 Temple

4. La Salle

NATIONAL RANK 191

Frontcourt: Rasual Butler has the "talent to play in the NBA," according to Explorers coach Speedy Morris. Butler showed a glimpse of his potential in 21 games. The lithe, 6-7 wing man can get to the basket and has a good long-range shooting stroke. Victor Thomas is one of the country's finest shooters and has the potential to take over games with 3-pointers. Gone is K'Zell Wesson, and he wasn't replaced. Vic Carter didn't qualify academically, so the team hopes that Garrett Bragg or Bobby Collins emerges in the middle and that Aleksander Pavlovich provides board help.

Backcourt: Donnie Carr played more responsibly, and he is a top-rate guard who could be even more dangerous, should his shooting accuracy continue to improve. Julian Blanks showed some promise, but he needs to cut way back on turnovers and get more accurate from long range. Both should happen. Get used to seeing Blanks and Carr on the floor—each averaged 39-plus minutes per game, and La Salle's backcourt depth has not improved.

Key to success: Find somebody to score and rebound inside.

Outlook: Morris earned a three-year contract extension by leading La Salle to an 8-8 Atlantic-10 finish. Now, he must find a way to lift the team into serious contention. It probably won't happen this season because the Explorers don't have anybody inside capable of performing consistently. La Salle will be entertaining, thanks to the high-scoring trio of Carr, Thomas and Butler. Some nights, that will be enough. But when the big boys come calling, La Salle probably will come up just short, thanks to its interior deficits.

Explorers DATA

Coach: Speedy Morris (215-169, 13 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-15. Atlantic 10 West: 8-8/3rd.
Last league title: 1990 (MAAC South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Philadelphia.
Home court: Hayman Center (4,000).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
5	G	Julian Blanks*	6-2	So.	7.3	3.4	3.5	37.5	73.7	29.0
52	C	Garrett Bragg	6-11	Jr.	1.8	2.1	0.2	32.6	42.9	—
45	F	Rasual Butler*	6-7	So.	14.2	4.0	1.5	38.0	74.1	32.8
12	G	Donnie Carr*	6-3	Sr.	18.7	4.6	4.9	40.3	73.6	34.5
	C	Bobby Collins	6-10	Sr.	0.9	2.2	0.0	35.7	00.0	—
34	F	James Jordan	6-8	Jr.	0.9	2.1	0.1	35.0	50.0	00.0
	F	Aleksander Pavlovich	6-7	Fr.	Lots of playing time available on thin front line.					
	F	Mike Pidhirsky	6-7	Fr.	Ditto above.					
10	G	Mike Sidebotham	6-0	Sr.	0.6	0.2	0.4	50.0	00.0	50.0
25	F	Victor Thomas*	6-7	Jr.	15.5	5.9	1.5	47.7	63.5	42.1
35	F	Anwar Wilson	6-8	So.	0.5	0.6	0.3	20.0	00.0	20.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Deon Jones	5-8	Transferred.					
F	Jermaine Peebles	6-6	Transferred.					
C	K'Zell Wesson*	6-7	15.6	10.8	1.4	49.9	70.5	—

Schedule

N20 Mount St. Mary's
N23 Central Connecticut
N26-27 Alabama Tournament
D1 at Villanova
D4 at Northwestern
D7 Pennsylvania
D18 at Drexel
D22 at Syracuse
D29-30 Cable Car Classic
J5 at Duquesne
J9 St. Bonaventure
J15 Rhode Island
J18 Temple
J23 at Xavier
J25 at Dayton
J29 at George Washington
F5 Virginia Tech
F9 at Massachusetts
F12 George Washington
F15 at St. Joseph's
F19 at Fordham
F23 Dayton
F27 Xavier
M1 at Virginia Tech
M4 Duquesne

5. Virginia Tech

NATIONAL RANK 217

Frontcourt: This should be the Hokies' strength. Look for Rolan Roberts to move to the 3-spot, partly to make room for power man Dennis Mims but also to take advantage of Roberts' burgeoning mid-range game. Mims showed the ability to score well inside and is touted as a future interior star. Expect Russ Wheeler to begin the season in the middle, but Clinton McPherson, who missed last season as a partial qualifier, has the skills to make a difference down low and on the boards. Andre Ray isn't going to light up the scoreboard, but he can rebound well and is a fine defender.

Backcourt: The team hoped Brian Chase would be able to run the show, but he didn't qualify academically, so Brendan Dunlop will hold onto the job. Dunlop isn't bad, but he turns the ball over too much and isn't quick. That hampers the team's ability in the halfcourt, where penetration is so valuable. Marksman Eddie Lucas is gone, and Tech isn't exactly brimming with possible replacements. There will be times when Dunlop handles the 2-spot and Jermaine Kimbrough runs the show. It would be nice if Tony Dobbins could grab the job, but there's no guarantee he can handle the responsibility consistently.

Key to success: The Hokies' backcourt must become productive and cut down on the mistakes.

Outlook: New coach Ricky Stokes must begin the rebuilding process. This year's team has some strength in the frontcourt, but there are questions at guard, particularly if Dobbins doesn't pan out. But Stokes had a good recruiting track record and should be able to replenish the stocks. For now, a .500 record would be welcomed—but not guaranteed.

Hokies DATA

Coach: Ricky Stokes (first year).
1998-99 record: 13-15. Atlantic 10 West: 7-9/4th.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Blacksburg, Va.
Home court: Cassell Coliseum (10,052).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
5	G	Brian Chase	5-10	Fr.	Good enough to play right away.					
32	G	Tony Dobbins	6-3	Fr.	Ditto above. Productive high school player.					
15	G	Brendan Dunlop*	6-2	Sr.	11.1	3.5	4.0	43.4	76.1	36.0
34	F	Brian Felts	6-5	Fr.	Knoxville product averaged 17.8 ppg last year.					
3	G	Jermaine Kimbrough	6-0	Sr.	3.1	0.9	0.6	28.3	70.0	31.6
50	C	Clinton McPherson	6-9	So.	Redshirted with torn ACL in 1998-99.					
42	F	Dennis Mims	6-9	So.	7.4	5.0	1.0	53.1	61.3	—
22	F	Andre Ray*	6-4	Sr.	3.7	3.9	1.5	37.6	56.8	33.3
4	F	Rolan Roberts*	6-6	Jr.	14.1	5.9	1.2	47.2	51.9	28.9
21	F/C	Jon Smith	6-8	Fr.	Playing time could be hard to come by.					
33	F/G	Rodrigo Viegas	6-5	So.	0.8	1.2	0.2	16.2	1.000	12.5
14	F	David Whaley	6-7	Jr.	2.4	1.5	0.5	37.7	60.0	26.7
31	C/F	Russ Wheeler*	6-8	Sr.	6.9	5.3	1.0	41.4	54.9	—
24	F	Keith Willis	6-5	Fr.	Football player will join basketball team late.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Eddie Lucas*	6-6	14.9	4.2	1.5	44.0	85.5	43.4
C	Alvaro Tor	6-9	1.9	1.7	0.3	43.2	68.2	—

Schedule

N22 at William & Mary
N29 at UNC-Asheville
D2 at East Tennessee State
D4 UNC-Charlotte
D6 at VMI
D9 Radford
D11 Liberty
D20-22 San Juan Shootout
D28 West Virginia
J6 at Xavier
J9 at Dayton
J12 Duquesne
J15 George Washington
J19 Fordham
J22 at Temple
J24 at Virginia
J29 Massachusetts
F3 St. Joseph's
F5 at La Salle
F7 Old Dominion
F10 at St. Bonaventure
F12 at Rhode Island
F17 at George Washington
F19 Xavier
F27 at Duquesne
M1 La Salle
M4 Dayton

6. Duquesne

NATIONAL RANK 221

Frontcourt: Wayne Smith had a great debut last season, providing the club's rare highlights with his all-around game. This season, he must reduce his turnovers and improve his shooting. Smith better be good because there isn't much after him, particularly if transfer Simon Ogunlesi, charged in a bank scam this summer with Jamal Hunter, doesn't play. If reinstated by the school—Ogunlesi would be eligible after the first semester—he will provide some much-needed heft, if not the unit's most polished offensive game. The backup plan isn't great. Chris Clark is a face-the-basket sort with raw offensive skills. Devone Stephenson is steady and unspectacular and must be cleared in the bank mess. Jack May could contribute, but he must get stronger.

Backcourt: The Dukes could be much better if some newcomers play. Point guard Courtney Wallace was the second-best scorer, but he may slide to off-guard with Devin Montgomery, a speedy scoring point who will allow the team to run more, on board. Wallace could start with Hunter, a scoring wing. If Hunter is cleared, he will be eligible after the first semester. Brad Midgley provides much-needed outside shooting—the club hit 29.6 percent of its 3-pointers last year. The real help could come from Kevin Forney, who may take the SAT again to try to gain eligibility in December.

Key to success: The newcomers must play well—if they play—and provide the right answers behind Smith and Wallace.

Outlook: The Dukes are on the right track and should improve. They need at least two more high-quality classes to be competitive, so enjoy Smith's maturation and root for the new guys.

Dukes DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Darelle Porter (5-23, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 5-23. Atlantic 10 West: 1-15/6th.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Pittsburgh.
Home court: A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	G	Matt Barker	6-2	Jr.	0.6	0.2	0.3	25.0	1.000	28.6
31	F	Chris Clark	6-10	Fr.	Exceptional shooting touch for a big man.					
20	G	Kevin Forney	6-4	Fr.	One of best HS players in Philly last season.					
12	G	Jamal Hunter	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from Loyola (Md.)					
40	G	Aaron Lovelace	6-5	Jr.	5.9	4.9	0.8	47.9	62.3	18.2
44	F	Jack May	6-8	Fr.	Averaged 23.0 ppg, 13.0 rpg in preps last year.					
21	G	Brad Midgley	6-5	Fr.	Versatile player with a 'gym rat' mentality.					
1	G	Devin Montgomery	6-0	Fr.	True point guard who can push the ball upcourt.					
00	C	Simon Ogunlesi	6-10	Jr.	Transferred from Villanova.					
10	G	Jeff Radkowski	6-2	Sr.	0.3	0.0	0.0	33.3	—	33.3
5	F	Wayne Smith*	6-7	So.	16.6	6.2	2.0	37.7	72.3	34.1
3	F	Devone Stephenson	6-7	Sr.	4.3	3.4	0.2	30.0	64.8	33.3
22	G	Shawn Tann	6-4	Jr.	7.0	1.7	0.6	31.8	81.8	32.4
4	G	Courtney Wallace*	6-4	Jr.	14.4	5.8	3.9	37.0	69.7	27.8

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/C	John Davis*	6-9	2.7	4.7	0.5	34.0	50.0	25.0
G	Austin Kegerreis	Transferred.						
F	Jason Rackley-Mann*	Transferred.						
C	Kevin Shand	6-10	10.1	5.3	0.5	50.0	53.8	—
G	Charles Stanfield*	Transferred.						

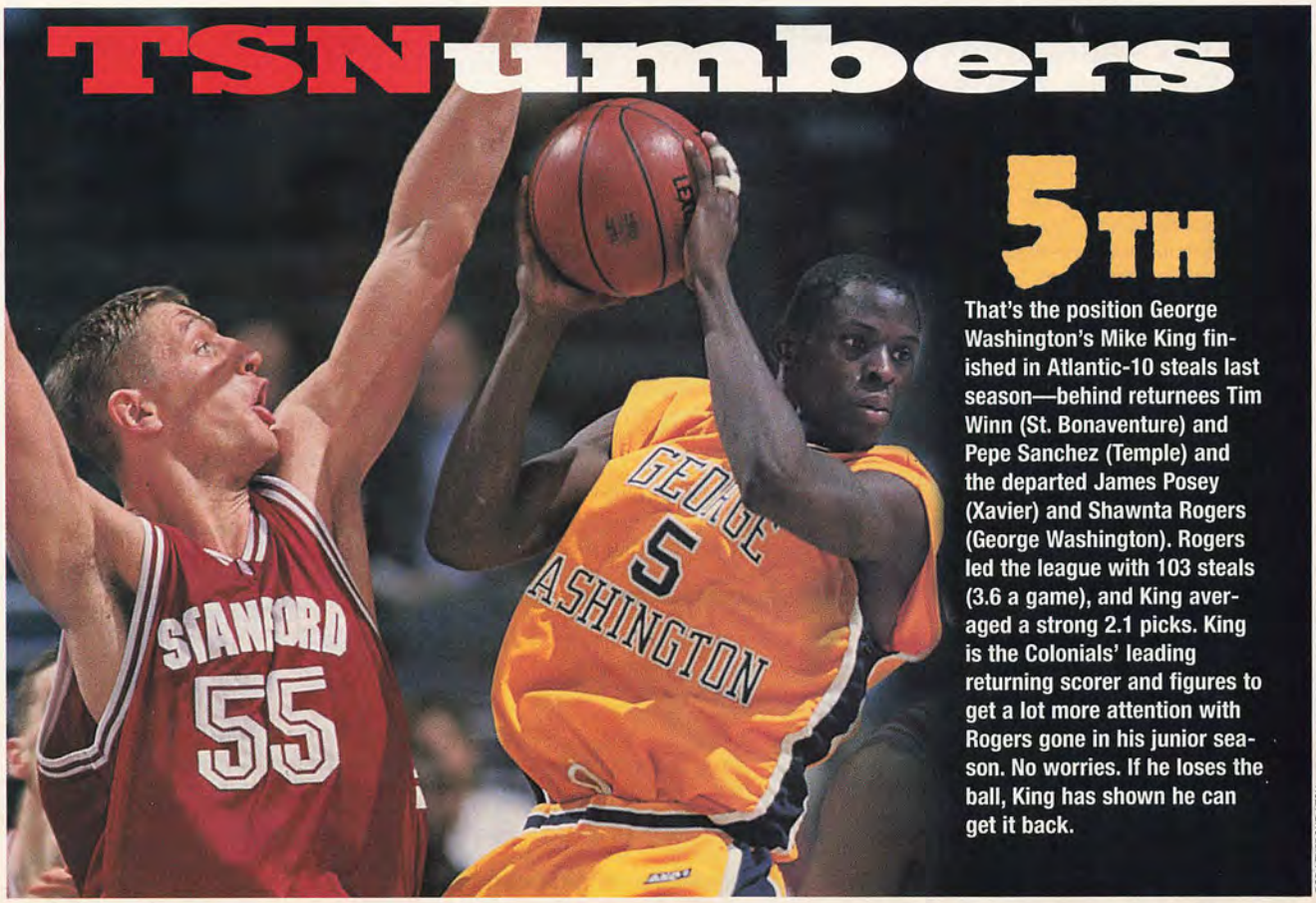
Schedule

N20 Delaware
N21 St. Francis (N.Y.)
N23 Northeastern
N30 at West Virginia
D4 Ohio State
D7 Canisius
D11 at South Florida
D20 at Pittsburgh
D23 at Michigan
D28 Rice
D30 Delaware State
J5 La Salle
J8 at George Washington
J12 at Virginia Tech
J18 at Rhode Island
J27 Massachusetts
J29 at Temple
F2 George Washington
F6 at Dayton
F10 Hampton
F15 at Xavier
F19 at St. Bonaventure
F23 Fordham
F27 Virginia Tech
M2 Dayton
M4 at La Salle

TSNumbers

5TH

That's the position George Washington's Mike King finished in Atlantic-10 steals last season—behind returnees Tim Winn (St. Bonaventure) and Pepe Sanchez (Temple) and the departed James Posey (Xavier) and Shawnta Rogers (George Washington). Rogers led the league with 103 steals (3.6 a game), and King averaged a strong 2.1 picks. King is the Colonials' leading returning scorer and figures to get a lot more attention with Rogers gone in his junior season. No worries. If he loses the ball, King has shown he can get it back.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Inside dish

Atlantic Coast

RANK 4

ASCENDING: Virginia. The Cavaliers went into last season with six scholarship players, lost top returning scorer and rebounder Colin Ducharme after the first game and still finished 14-16—a three-game improvement over the previous season. The return of Ducharme and four double-figure scorers, combined with the arrival of a top-five recruiting class, provides Top 25 talent.

DESCENDING: Maryland. The Terrapins were able to survive the loss of senior center Obinna Ekezie in early February and set a school record with 28 wins. It won't be as easy to replace first-team All-ACC selection Steve Francis, No. 10 all-time scorer Laron Profit and three-year starting point guard Terrell Stokes. A seventh straight NCAA appearance would be quite an achievement.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Duke's Elton Brand. The Blue Devils won't have a problem finding a frontcourt from among their top-ranked recruiting class and returnees Shane Battier, Chris Carrawell and Nate James, but Brand gave them a bull in the paint who could play with his back to the basket. That was one reason coach Mike Krzyzewski was so disappointed to see big man Chris Burgess transfer to Utah.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Georgia Tech's Alvin Jones. If he played for a better team, Jones would have made first-, second- or third-team All-ACC. But Tech finished 15-16, and Jones had to settle for honorable mention despite leading the ACC in blocked shots and finishing third in rebounding. He lifted his scoring average from 6.8 points per game as a freshman to 12.7 last season.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: North Carolina's Ronald Curry. Curry was booed when UNC played at Virginia, to which he had made an oral commitment early in his senior year of high school. More embarrassing was a sign that showed Curry's numbers were inferior to those of Cavaliers walk-on Josh Hare. Curry was McDonald's National Basketball Player of the Year for 1997-98.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Georgia Tech's Bobby Cremins. Cremins is among a handful of ACC coaches who have won as many as three conference championships, but the Yellow Jackets have been to the NCAAs once since 1992-93. Cremins has been plagued by the early departures of such players as Kenny Anderson, Stephon Marbury and, most recently, Dion Glover. He can't afford another losing season.

BEST BETS: UNC coach Bill Guthridge, whose 58-14 record is the best in Division I men's history after two years, will come out of this season with the best three-year record. ... Maryland's Gary Williams will win his 400th game as a Division I coach. Williams is 399-245 in 21 seasons at American University, Boston College, Ohio State and Maryland. Among current ACC coaches, only Krzyzewski (542) and Cremins (441) are ahead of him. Virginia's Pete Gillen (288-144) will go over the 300-win mark. ... Wake Forest coach Dave Odom won't complain about his team not making the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year. For one thing, Wake should be good enough to make the field. For another, NCAA Basketball Committee chairman C.M. Newton has let it be known he didn't appreciate Odom's comments last year.

ODDS AND ENDS: Duke became the first team in NCAA history to have four players selected in the first round of the NBA draft: senior Trajan Langdon and underclassmen Elton Brand, William Avery and Corey Maggette. ... Guthridge says UNC's non-conference schedule is one of the toughest in school history. It plays Michigan State, College of Charleston, Miami (Fla.), Indiana, Louisville and UCLA, and is in tournaments with Purdue, Florida, UNLV and Princeton. ... Florida State will have one of the heaviest players in ACC history in Nigel Dixon, who was measured at 6-10, 380 when he signed. ... Wake Forest returns 94 percent of its scoring and 93 percent of its rebounding.

By Doug Doughty *Roanoke (Va.) Times*

Predictions

1. North Carolina
2. Duke
3. Wake Forest
4. Georgia Tech
5. Virginia
6. Maryland
7. NC State
8. Clemson
9. Florida State

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ed Cota, North Carolina	6-1	196	Sr.
G	Robert O'Kelley, Wake Forest	6-1	187	Jr.
C	Brendan Haywood, North Carolina	7-0	271	Jr.
F	Chris Carrawell, Duke	6-6	215	Sr.
F	Terence Morris, Maryland	6-9	205	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Williams, Duke	6-2	190	Fr.
G/F	Jason Capel, North Carolina	6-8	230	So.
F/G	Chris Williams, Virginia	6-6	198	So.
F	Kris Lang, North Carolina	6-11	235	So.
F	Shane Battier, Duke	6-8	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Terence Morris, F, Maryland

Newcomer of the Year

Jason Williams, G, Duke

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Robert O'Kelley, Wake Forest
Best rebounder: Alvin Jones, Georgia Tech
Best playmaker: Ed Cota, North Carolina
Best defender: Chris Carrawell, Duke
Best leaper: Adam Hall, Virginia
Most versatile: Shane Battier, Duke
Most flamboyant: Craig Dawson, Wake Forest
Best NBA prospect: Terence Morris, Maryland

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Duke: The nation's top-rated recruiting class.
2. Virginia: Program has been rebuilt with players like PF Travis Watson.
3. NC State: Damien Wilkins was a consensus top-5 recruit nationally.
4. Maryland: Point guard Steve Blake went 67-1 the past two years.
5. North Carolina: DeMatha-bred Joe Forte is a future star.
6. Clemson: Lost its top recruit.
7. Georgia Tech: Clarence Moore has the best chance to help right away.
8. Florida State: Nigel Dixon, 380, gives new meaning to "big man."
9. Wake Forest: Didn't need anyone.

More on the Atlantic Coast at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. North Carolina

NATIONAL RANK 6

Schedule

N22-24	Maui Classic
D1	Michigan State
D3-4	Food Lion Classic
D7	at Buffalo
D8	Great Eight Challenge
D12	Tennessee Tech
D18	at Miami
D21	Jimmy V Classic
D23	at Louisville
J2	Howard
J6	Clemson
J8	NC State
J12	at Wake Forest
J15	UCLA
J22	Florida State
J26	Maryland
J29	at Georgia Tech
F3	Duke
F6	at Clemson
F9	at NC State
F12	Wake Forest
F20	Virginia
F23	at Florida State
F26	at Maryland
M1	Georgia Tech
M4	at Duke

Frontcourt: Coach Bill Guthridge wishes he had top signee Jason Parker and reserve Vasco Evtimov, but mostly for depth reasons. Carolina still has one of the best frontcourts in college basketball and maybe the best young frontcourt in the country in junior center Brendan Haywood and sophomores Kris Lang and Jason Capel. Capel could be headed for a breakout year after missing almost a month of the 1998-99 season with mononucleosis. He should be much quicker after undergoing surgery for the removal of two herniated disks. Capel was pain-free by mid-summer. Haywood won't soon forget a one-point, zero-rebound, 24-minute outing in the Tar Heels' final game last year—a 76-74 loss to Weber State in the first round of the West Regional—but otherwise, the season had many positives to savor. Haywood was second on the team in scoring and rebounding, and his 64.8 field-goal percentage was second in the ACC. A 7-0, 261-pound player needs to average more than 6.9 rebounds, however. Lang also has room to improve as a rebounder, but his freshman year exceeded expectations. Guthridge thinks Lang needs to become stronger to play more minutes—a concern this year, with Brian Bersticker the only experienced frontcourt reserve. The Tar Heels knew Parker would go down to the wire academically, but they had no idea Evtimov was leaving until an Internet junkie called to say the EuroBasket website was reporting Evtimov had signed with a professional team in Greece.

Backcourt: Maybe the most positive offseason development for an ACC team was point guard Ed Cota's decision to return to North Carolina for his senior year. No player in ACC history has led the conference in assists in each of his four years, and Cota is the first to do it in each of his first three. Cota has become more of a scoring threat each year, matching a career high with 20 points against Weber State in the NCAA Tournament, though he does not feel compelled to shoot. The injury to Capel, who got his first look at shooting guard, turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Max Owens. Owens became a starter after Capel was injured and was named to the All-ACC Tournament team. Recruit Joe Forte has plenty of talent and was well-schooled at DeMatha in Hyattsville, Md. Depth at point guard could be a problem, particularly because third guard Ronald Curry will be with the Tar Heels' football team until its season ends. Jon Holmes, a little-known signee from Bloomington, Ind., will provide insurance at the point.

Key to success: Carolina was last in the ACC in 3-point field goals and lost its top 3-point shooter, Ademola Okulaja, which is a story in itself. Only Carolina would have a 6-9, 235-pound small forward, but that's what Okulaja played last year with the emergence of Haywood and Lang. Owens has 3-point range and Cota shot 41.2 percent from behind the arc, but opponents are still likely to pack the lane against UNC until the Tar Heels prove they can make teams pay from outside.

Outlook: There's little doubt Carolina will extend its NCAA record of seasons with at least 20 victories to 26. After all, the Heels were 24-10 last year with only one returning starter from their Final Four team of 1997-98. It's basically the team that lost to Weber State, but Carolina has Final Four potential.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Sticking around: *Cota's decision not to go pro early bodes well for the Tar Heels. He will try to become the first ACC player to lead the league in assists all four years.*

Tar Heels DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bill Guthridge (58-14, 2 years; 4-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 24-10. ACC: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Weber State in NCAA West 1st round.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1974.
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Home court: Dean Smith Center (21,572).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
50	F/C	Brian Bersticker	6-10	Jr.	3.1	2.0	0.1	51.7	77.8	50.0
25	F/G	Jason Capel*	6-8	So.	9.1	4.1	2.0	42.9	85.4	41.1
5	G	Ed Cota*	6-1	Sr.	10.5	4.3	7.4	40.6	67.6	41.2
22	G	Ronald Curry	6-2	So.	2.8	1.5	1.6	24.5	61.8	14.3
40	G	Joe Forte	6-4	Fr.	A first-team Parade All-American.					
00	C	Brendan Haywood*	7-0	Jr.	12.0	6.9	1.0	64.8	67.2	—
14	G	Jon Holmes	6-1	Fr.	Bloomington, Ind., product is insurance at point.					
44	F	Will Johnson	6-7	Fr.	Considered a project, he's expected to redshirt.					
42	F/C	Kris Lang*	6-11	So.	10.6	5.4	0.5	57.8	67.0	—
32	F	Orlando Melendez	6-8	So.	1.8	0.5	0.1	52.9	90.0	00.0
21	G	Terrence Newby	6-2	Sr.	1.4	0.7	0.8	31.2	55.6	42.1
24	G/F	Max Owens	6-5	Jr.	7.8	2.0	0.9	43.1	85.1	35.7

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Vasco Evtimov	6-10	Signed with a professional team in Greece.					
G	Brad Frederick	6-5	1.1	0.6	0.2	42.9	50.0	46.2
F	Ademola Okulaja*	6-9	13.9	8.4	2.4	44.2	74.5	43.1

2. Duke

NATIONAL RANK 14

Schedule

N11-12 NABC Coaches vs. Cancer Classic
N20 Army
N23 Columbia
N27 USC*
N30 Illinois†
D4 DePaul
D11 at Michigan
D19 North Carolina A&T
D21 Davidson
J2 William & Mary
J5 at Virginia
J9 at Maryland
J12 Georgia Tech
J16 at Florida State
J19 North Carolina State
J22 at Wake Forest
J29 Clemson
F3 at North Carolina
F5 Virginia
F9 Maryland
F12 at Georgia Tech
F16 Florida State
F19 at North Carolina State
F22 Wake Forest
F26 St. John's
M1 at Clemson
M4 North Carolina
* Anaheim, Calif.
† Chicago

Frontcourt: No Blue Devil of recent vintage more closely resembles Grant Hill as a player than Shane Battier, who may lack some of Hill's ball-handling and driving ability but may be a better shooter and shot-blocker. Battier was becoming a marquee player even before Elton Brand made himself available for the NBA draft. Brand is one of four Duke underclassmen who will not be back, with three bound for the NBA and Chris Burgess transferring to Utah. As a result, Duke could be looking at 6-11 freshman Casey Sanders or seldom-used 6-10 sophomore Matt Christensen as its starting center. Coach Mike Krzyzewski has never been one to follow stereotypes, so he could play without a natural center, going with three veteran forwards in Battier, Chris Carrawell and Nate James. Carrawell is so versatile he was a stopgap backup point guard when Trajan Langdon was sidelined by a foot injury, and he brings a toughness that makes him one of the ACC's best defensive players. Don't count out two other recruits, Nick Horvath and Carlos Boozer, a late signee who followed Langdon's path from Alaska to Durham. Boozer, though a couple of inches shorter than Sanders, is another candidate to start as a freshman, although he was facing a rehabilitation period of 8-12 weeks after surgery for a broken bone in his foot in August.

Backcourt: Jason Williams was not recruited with the understanding he would start as a freshman, but with William Avery headed to the NBA after his sophomore year, no one coming out of high school is better equipped to fill the void. Unfortunately for Williams, the highest-rated of Duke's signees, he won't have a Langdon playing next to him to ease the transition. Nor will there be a Corey Maggette, who was being groomed as Langdon's successor until he, too, took off for the pros. Battier, Carrawell or James could play shooting guard, if Krzyzewski decides to go that route, but the most natural shooting guard on the roster is freshman Mike Dunleavy. Yes, he's the son of the Portland Trail Blazers' coach of the same name and has all the attributes of a typical coach's son. Duke is hoping good genes help another signee, Andre Buckner, whose older brother Greg was an outstanding player for Clemson. The younger Buckner was hoping to walk on at Tennessee until Avery made his decision, causing the Blue Devils to scramble for a backup point guard.

Key to success: Langdon led the ACC in 3-point percentage last year and finished first in 3-pointers made, with 112. Avery was fourth, with 76, and Maggette had shooting range to go with his end-to-end flamboyance. Battier surprised people when he started bombing away late in the season, but he's going to draw a lot more defensive attention until the Blue Devils develop other 3-point threats. Duke needs to develop a go-to guy, most likely Battier, to replace Langdon.

Outlook: If the Blue Devils had kept all their underclassmen, everybody would have picked them No. 1 in the country. That was unlikely to happen because Krzyzewski, among others, felt that circumstances dictated Brand's departure. If Brand had gone and the other three had stayed, maybe Duke still would have been No. 1. It's not unheard of for a freshman-laden team to go far in the postseason, but another Final Four trip would be expecting too much.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Multi-talented: *James, a veteran forward for the Blue Devils, could see time at shooting guard as well while the backcourt goes through some transition.*

Blue Devils DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (469-155, 19 years; 542-214 overall, 24 years; 48-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '91, '92).
1998-99 record: 37-2. ACC: 16-0/1st. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA final.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Durham, N.C.
Home court: Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
31	F	Shane Battier*	6-8	Jr.	9.1	4.9	1.5	54.5	72.4	41.5
4	F	Carlos Boozer	6-9	Fr.	Alaska native was McDonald's All-American.					
15	G	Andre Buckner	5-10	Fr.	Brother of ex-Clemson star Greg.					
23	F	Chris Carrawell*	6-6	Sr.	9.9	4.8	3.3	45.4	57.7	34.5
41	F	Matt Christensen	6-10	So.	Medical redshirt in 1998-99.					
34	G/F	Mike Dunleavy Jr.	6-7	Fr.	Son of the Blazers' coach, Mike Jr. can shoot it.					
3	C	Nick Horvath	6-10	Fr.	Adds needed size with Brand, Burgess gone.					
14	F/G	Nate James	6-6	Jr.	5.0	2.6	0.9	45.4	66.2	28.8
20	C	Casey Sanders	6-11	Fr.	Needs to get stronger but adds athleticism.					
13	G	J.D. Simpson	6-4	Jr.	0.4	0.3	0.1	12.5	57.1	0.00
22	G	Jason Williams	6-2	Fr.	Gatorade national prep player of the year.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	William Avery*	6-2	14.9	3.5	5.0	48.3	81.0	41.1
C	Elton Brand*	6-8	17.7	9.8	1.0	62.0	70.7	—
C	Chris Burgess	6-10	Transferred to Utah.					
C	Taymon Domzalski	6-10	3.8	3.0	0.3	53.4	71.2	—
G	Trajan Langdon*	6-3	17.3	3.4	1.9	46.2	84.2	44.1
F	Corey Maggette	6-6	10.6	3.9	1.5	52.5	71.6	34.5

3. Wake Forest

NATIONAL RANK 21

Schedule

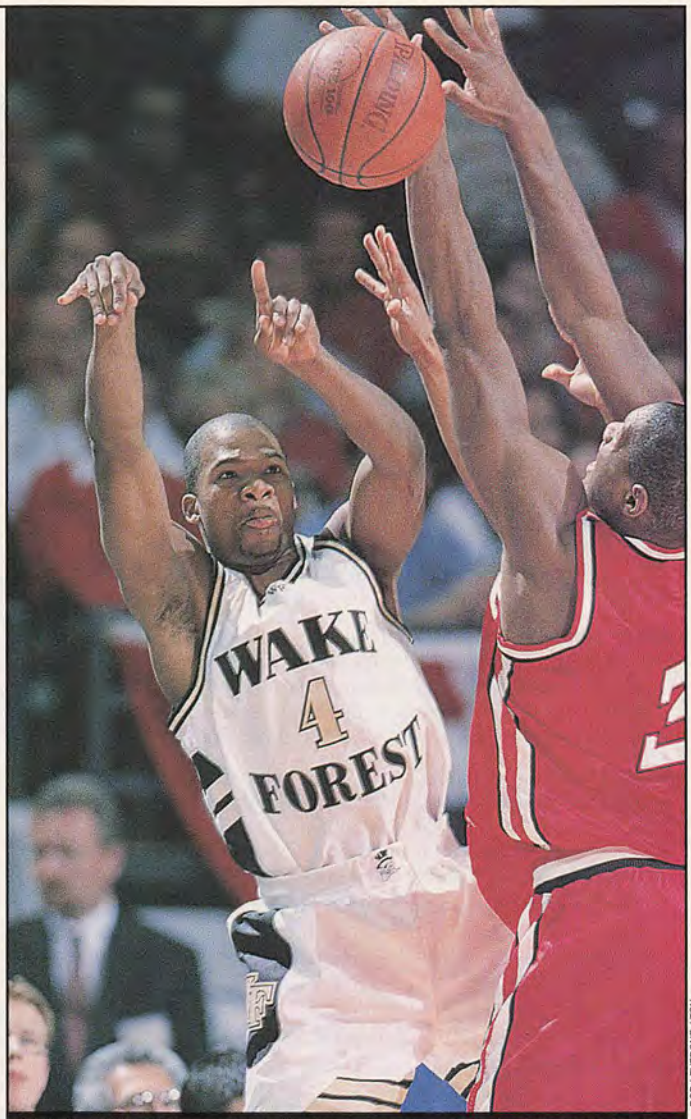
N20	Campbell
N22	at Navy
N27	Md.-Eastern Shore
N30	Wisconsin
D4	Temple
D11	at Georgia
D15	UNC-Greensboro
D17	High Point
D20	at Arkansas
D28-30	Rainbow Classic
J4	Florida State
J9	at Clemson
J12	North Carolina
J16	at NC State
J19	at Maryland
J22	Duke
J27	at Georgia Tech
J30	Virginia
F2	at Davidson
F5	at Florida State
F8	Clemson
F12	at North Carolina
F15	NC State
F19	Maryland
F22	at Duke
M2	at Virginia

Frontcourt: When shoulder problems sidelined Niki Arinze after the fifth game last season, it created an opportunity for sophomore Rafael Vidaurreta and freshman Darius Songaila, who emerged from a corral of frontcourt players. Now, Arinze is back after arthroscopic procedures on both shoulders and has Vidaurreta and Songaila to share the rebounding load. Songaila, a native Lithuanian, was a scorer from his arrival; Vidaurreta, from Spain, developed more of an eye for the basket over the last month of the season. He scored in double figures seven times in the last nine games, with double-doubles in five of them. For height, the Demon Deacons can turn to Josh Shoemaker, who has started 34 games over the past two seasons, or Tate Decker, a transfer from Missouri who is the tallest player on the team. Then there are sophomore Antwan Scott, who played in 30 games last year and showed promise, and freshman Josh Howard. All the Deacons lack is a shot blocker. Songaila led the team in blocks with 21; four individuals in the ACC had more blocks than the Demon Deacons had (64) as a team.

Backcourt: Wake would be a more potent team if 6-1 Robert O'Kelley could play point guard. But the Deacons have been down that road before, and they are a better team with O'Kelley shooting the ball rather than distributing it. He is the top returning scorer in the ACC and enters his junior year with 162 3-point field goals for his career. Broderick Hicks is the most natural point guard on the team, but his assist-to-turnover numbers, 48-47, weren't great. Even so, they were better than O'Kelley's 63-79. A Hicks-O'Kelley backcourt will make it difficult for coach Dave Odom to find playing time for Craig Dawson, Jerry Stackhouse's 6-5 cousin, who played mostly small forward last season but likes to shoot 3-pointers and does not hit the boards. Odom had to like what he saw of another freshman guard, Ervin Murray, but where and when does Murray play? Look for O'Kelley to get his minutes and for Odom to go with the hot hand at the other spot. Before it's all over, Wake may have to play three guards because a Songaila-Vidaurreta-Arinze frontcourt would lack shooting range. Dawson is the most natural swingman.

Key to success: The Deacons had almost 100 more turnovers than assists last season, so if they don't find somebody to take care of the ball, it won't matter how much firepower they have. Although Odom has seen a number of players transfer, he generally has been able to keep team harmony. Wake used 15 starting lineups last season, and it will require as much experimenting before Odom finds the right mix this year.

Outlook: If the Demon Deacons hadn't blown a big lead in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament and lost by 14 points to North Carolina State—a team they had beaten by 29 five days earlier—Wake Forest would have been in the NCAA Tournament. Odom thought the team should have made the field anyway and was a little too outspoken about it to suit committee chairman C.M. Newton. With almost everybody back, including 1997-98 starter Arinze, there should be no excuses this year. Wake does not have any scholarship seniors, but after seven straight NCAA appearances, Odom is ready to end the Deacons' NIT streak at two.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Just shoot it: *O'Kelley could help the Demon Deacons at the point, but considering he is the ACC's top returning scorer, they may need him to fill the shooting guard spot.*

Demon Deacons DATA

Coach: Dave Odom (199-107, 10 years; 237-149 overall, 13 years; 10-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-14. ACC: 7-9/4th. Lost to Xavier in NIT second round.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Home court: Lawrence Joel Coliseum (14,407).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
33	F	Niki Arinze	6-5	So.	Redshirted with shoulder injury in 1998-99.					
42	G/F	Craig Dawson*	6-5	So.	8.1	2.4	1.3	42.4	81.8	38.6
52	F/C	Tate Decker	6-10	Jr.	Transferred from Missouri.					
3	G	Broderick Hicks	6-1	So.	4.8	1.9	1.5	39.6	58.3	32.3
5	F	Josh Howard	6-6	Fr.	Quickness, leaping ability and defense.					
31	G	Ervin Murray	6-5	So.	3.1	2.3	1.3	40.7	75.0	23.5
4	G	Robert O'Kelley*	6-1	Jr.	17.5	2.3	2.0	40.3	71.0	37.6
34	F	Antwan Scott	6-8	So.	4.2	1.8	0.1	46.4	72.9	100.0
44	C	Josh Shoemaker	6-9	Jr.	3.9	4.5	0.7	52.9	59.3	0.00
25	F	Darius Songaila*	6-9	So.	12.1	5.3	1.5	50.4	80.4	25.0
41	C	Rafael Vidaurreta*	6-9	Jr.	7.8	7.3	1.4	49.4	73.3	20.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Joseph Amonett	6-5	3.2	1.7	0.9	31.1	71.0	29.0

4. Georgia Tech

NATIONAL RANK 26

Frontcourt: Jason Collier and Alvin Jones are one of the top high-low post tandems in the country. Collier challenged for the ACC scoring title until late last season, and Jones barely lost the league's rebounding crown. Moreover, he led the conference in blocked shots (107) by a wide margin. Collier could be tougher and Jones could be more sure-handed, but if they were, they might be in the NBA by now. Jon Babul is a blue-collar worker who doesn't shoot well but plays defense and hits the boards.

Backcourt: Dion Glover was expected back after he suffered a torn ACL on the first day of practice, but he never played collegiately again, declaring for the NBA draft. Swingman Jason Floyd should start at guard and comes off a junior year during which he had 69 3-pointers. Tony Akins made 57 3-pointers and becomes the first point guard to start in back-to-back seasons for Tech since Travis Best in 1994-95. T.J. Vines is a high-quality third guard, and junior transfer Shaun Fein may be the best shooter of the bunch.

Key to success: The Yellow Jackets have no depth. Floyd probably will play some forward out of necessity, but 6-5 freshman Clarence Moore might be the first frontcourt player off the bench. With the return of four double-figure scorers, Akins becomes pivotal and needs to cut down on his 138 turnovers.

Outlook: There was no excuse for Tech to lose nine of its last 11 games, even without Glover. Something isn't right, and if Bobby Cremins doesn't fix it, he will come under increased scrutiny. Glover frequently was out of control two years ago as a freshman, so the Yellow Jackets may not suffer greatly from his absence.

Yellow Jackets DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bobby Cremins (341-220, 18 years; 441-290 overall, 24 years; 15-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-16. ACC: 6-10/T5th. Lost to Oregon in NIT 1st round.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Atlanta.
Home court: Alexander Memorial Coliseum at McDonald's Center (10,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
3	G	Tony Akins*	6-0	So.	11.3	3.7	4.8	31.6	66.7	28.8
23	F	Jon Babul*	6-7	Jr.	5.3	6.0	1.3	39.4	50.0	22.2
24	G	Ross Chouest	6-1	Fr.						
52	F	Jason Collier*	7-0	Sr.	17.2	7.3	1.4	44.1	71.9	35.6
11	G	Shaun Fein	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Stonehill College.					
34	G	Jason Floyd*	6-6	Sr.	13.5	4.8	1.9	40.0	84.2	32.7
44	F	Michael Isenhour	6-8	So.	Transferred from Air Force.					
4	C	Alvin Jones*	6-11	Jr.	12.7	9.7	1.7	52.3	52.2	—
13	G	Darryl LaBarrie	6-3	Jr.	3.5	1.5	0.6	37.8	56.5	31.2
31	F	Alex Luyk	6-7	Fr.						
42	F	Clarence Moore	6-5	Fr.	Averaged 28.6 points as high school senior.					
10	G	T.J. Vines	5-10	Jr.	6.6	1.7	2.0	42.7	63.0	42.7

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Dion Glover	6-5	Missed 1998-99 season, declared for NBA draft.					
F	Ashley Kelly	6-7	1.0	1.3	0.1	33.3	70.0	—

Schedule

N19 Mercer
N24-27 Alaska Shootout
D1 ACC-Big 10 Chlnge.
D8 at Georgia
D11 at Stanford
D18 Morehead State
D21 Wofford
D28 UNC-Greensboro
J2 Lafayette
J5 at Kentucky
J8 at Virginia
J12 at Duke
J15 Maryland
J19 Florida State
J22 at NC State
J27 Wake Forest
J29 North Carolina
F2 at Clemson
F5 Florida A&M
F9 Virginia
F12 Duke
F16 at Maryland
F21 at Florida State
F24 NC State
F27 at Wake Forest
M1 at North Carolina
M4 Clemson

5. Virginia

NATIONAL RANK 34

Frontcourt: One day after last season's opener, starting center Colin Ducharme—UVA's leading scorer and rebounder in 1997-98—suffered a broken ankle in an off-court fall and was out for the season. He's back now, he's lighter and the coaches say nobody was more dedicated during the offseason. In Ducharme, signee Travis Watson and Chris Williams, the reigning ACC Rookie of the Year, the Cavaliers will be undersized in the frontcourt but will have three bona fide rebounders. Williams was fifth in the ACC in rebounding as a freshman.

Backcourt: Donald Hand will need to concentrate more on his playmaking this year with a supporting cast of shooting guards that will include newcomers Roger Mason and Keith Friel, a transfer from Notre Dame and a 3-point specialist. The Cavaliers are certain to use three-guard lineups frequently because of the presence of returning double-figure scorers Willie Dersch and Adam Hall. Hall may have the inside track on a starting job because of his athleticism.

Key to success: Ducharme has been foul-plagued throughout his career. The loss of Ducharme's replacement—Kris Hunter—means the Cavaliers might have to use 6-10 signee Jason Rogers, their tallest player. JC transfer Stephane DonDon has an NBA body but must familiarize himself with inside play.

Outlook: The Cavaliers held out hopes of a postseason invitation last year before losing their last four games and finishing 14-16. Coach Pete Gillen's second team is much more talented and has sparked talk of a return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996-97.

Cavaliers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Pete Gillen (14-16, 1 year; 288-144 overall, 14 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-16. ACC: 4-12/9th.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Charlottesville, Va.
Home court: University Hall (8,457).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
24	G/F	Willie Dersch*	6-6	Sr.	10.2	2.8	1.4	40.0	80.0	31.7
4	F	Stephane Dondon	6-8	Jr.	J.C. transfer is an athletic rebounder.					
5	G	Jason Dowling	6-2	So.	0.3	0.4	0.1	20.0	100.0	50.0
52	C/F	Colin Ducharme	6-9	Jr.	Redshirted because of injury in 1998-99.					
12	G	Keith Friel	6-4	Jr.	Transfer from Notre Dame can shoot.					
31	F/G	Adam Hall	6-5	So.	10.8	4.5	1.3	41.2	55.2	32.1
13	G	Donald Hand*	5-11	Jr.	17.1	4.8	4.1	37.5	86.2	31.4
22	G	Josh Hare	6-2	Jr.	3.6	2.5	2.0	47.7	61.9	41.2
32	G	Cade Lemcke	6-6	So.	1.1	0.3	0.1	43.5	66.7	43.8
11	G	Majestic Mapp	6-1	Fr.	McDonald's All-American from the Bronx.					
21	G	Roger Mason	6-4	Fr.	Considered by some tops in Washington, D.C.					
30	C/F	Jason Rogers	6-10	Fr.	Gatorade player of the year in Virginia.					
10	G	Chezley Watson*	6-2	Jr.	8.3	3.0	3.0	41.3	78.9	28.4
35	F	Travis Watson	6-7	Fr.	Virginia's Mr. Basketball by *Roanoke Times*.					
33	F	Chris Williams*	6-6	So.	16.8	7.5	1.8	51.2	73.2	30.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Raleigh Harbour	6-8	0.7	0.8	0.1	42.9	50.0	—
C	Kris Hunter*	6-11	5.4	5.6	0.7	39.6	58.3	—
G/F	Brandon Lloyd	6-4	0.6	0.2	0.1	100.0	75.0	—
G	Greg Lyons	6-4	1.8	0.1	0.3	46.7	100.0	46.2
F	Marcus Martin	6-5	0.3	0.4	0.1	12.5	50.0	00.0

Schedule

N19 Elon College
N21 VMI
N25-27 Puerto Rico Shootout
N30 at Minnesota
D4 at St. John's
D8 Loyola
D10 at Hampton
D21 at Richmond
D28 Belmont
J2 Dartmouth
J5 Duke
J8 Georgia Tech
J12 at NC State
J15 at Clemson
J18 North Carolina
J24 Virginia Tech
J26 Florida State
J30 at Wake Forest
F2 at Maryland
F5 at Duke
F9 at Georgia Tech
F12 NC State
F15 Clemson
F20 at North Carolina
F26 at Florida State
M3 Wake Forest
M4 Maryland

6. Maryland

NATIONAL RANK 59

Frontcourt: Coach Gary Williams already had inserted freshman Lonny Baxter into the starting lineup by the time Obinna Ekezie suffered a torn Achilles' tendon late last season. The 10 starts Baxter received should take some pressure off Terence Morris, the only returning first-team All-ACC player. Seven-footer Mike Mardesich, impressive in 1997-98, failed to make the hoped-for improvement last season. If he returns to his old form, Williams would be tempted to play Mardesich and Baxter together, freeing Morris to play the wing, for which he is ideally suited.

Backcourt: Maryland continues to list Danny Miller at guard, although he saw considerable playing time at forward last year. Williams likes his intensity, though Miller wasn't as dangerous from outside as billed. If Miller is needed at forward, sophomore Juan Dixon will be the shooting guard after making 36 3-pointers last year off the bench. Dixon is likely to see some minutes at point guard, but freshman Steve Blake will be the first option after directing his high school team to the nation's No. 1 ranking.

Key to success: Morris has never been the Terrapins' go-to guy, and he disappeared at some crucial times late last season. He had 20 points and 11 rebounds against Creighton in a second-round NCAA Tournament game, then had nine points and four rebounds in a season-ending loss to St. John's.

Outlook: Williams has not won an ACC title in 10 seasons at his alma mater, nor has he advanced past the regional semifinals in 21 years as a Division I coach. The chances were much better last year than they will be this year.

Terrapins DATA

Coach: Gary Williams (192-118, 10 years; 399-246 overall, 21 years; 12-9 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 28-6. ACC: 13-3/2nd. Lost to St. John's in NCAA South semifinals.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: College Park, Md.
Home court: Cole Field House (14,500).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
4	G	Earl Badu	6-0	So.	Walk-on should add depth at guard.					
35	C/F	Lonny Baxter*	6-8	So.	6.8	3.6	0.6	59.9	57.3	100.0
25	G	Steve Blake	6-3	Fr.	Runner-up for Mr. Basketball in Virginia.					
21	F	LaRon Cephas	6-7	Jr.	1.4	0.3	0.1	44.4	50.0	60.0
5	G	Juan Dixon	6-3	So.	7.4	2.6	1.4	44.3	83.0	37.1
20	G	Matt Hahn	6-0	Sr.	0.7	0.4	0.9	75.0	44.4	—
45	F	Tahj Holden	6-10	Fr.	Big wing who can shoot the three.					
33	C/F	Mike Mardesich	7-0	Jr.	3.4	3.4	0.6	35.0	52.8	—
15	G/F	Danny Miller	6-8	So.	4.2	2.1	1.3	48.2	53.2	33.3
44	F	Terence Morris*	6-9	Jr.	15.3	7.1	1.6	55.1	82.5	35.5
12	G	Drew Nicholas	6-3	Fr.	Shot 57 percent from field as high school senior.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Obinna Ekezie	6-10	12.7	5.9	0.9	48.8	69.3	0.00
G	Norman Fields	6-0	1.1	1.0	0.6	28.6	77.8	10.0
G	Steve Francis	6-3	17.0	4.5	4.5	52.3	79.0	38.8
F	Laron Profit	6-5	14.5	4.8	2.1	50.3	67.6	31.2
G	Terrell Stokes	6-0	4.2	2.8	6.3	42.1	66.7	40.9
F	Brian Watkins	6-9	2.6	1.8	0.0	48.8	50.0	44.5

Schedule

N17 San Francisco
N19 Tulane
N22 Fairleigh Dickinson
N24-26 Preseason NIT
N30 Iowa
D4 Illinois
D5 George Washington
D7 Winthrop
D11 Kentucky
D27 George Mason
D30 Md.-Baltimore County
J2 Coastal Carolina
J6 at NC State
J9 Duke
J15 at Georgia Tech
J19 Wake Forest
J22 Clemson
J26 at North Carolina
J29 at Florida State
F2 Virginia
F6 NC State
F9 at Duke
F13 at Temple
F16 Georgia Tech
F19 at Wake Forest
F22 at Clemson
F26 North Carolina
M1 Florida State
M4 at Virginia

7. NC State

NATIONAL RANK 68

Frontcourt: Kenny Inge's rebounding average dropped from 7.4 as a freshman to 6.1 last season, and his field-goal percentage dropped from 51.6 to 47.9. If Inge and Damon Thornton can keep their focus, the Wolfpack have a stabilizing force in center Ron Kelley, who has started 40 games over the past two seasons. All are at least 6-8, which leaves State shorter than the elite ACC teams, but size won't be a problem if they have their heads in the game. And don't forget senior Tim Wells, who gets better every year.

Backcourt: Only one ACC player, North Carolina's Ed Cota, has played more minutes than Justin Gainey, who was a starter in the 1997 ACC championship game as a freshman. Although Gainey isn't the most physically gifted player in the conference, he knows his role. That's to get the ball to scorers such as Damien Wilkins, Anthony Grundy and Archie Miller, the team's top 3-point threat before back surgery caused him to miss last season. Most of Miller's time could come as the backup point guard because of the logjam at shooting guard with Wilkins and Grundy.

Key to success: How will a veteran team adjust to Wilkins, who has the potential to lead the team in scoring? He is listed as a forward, perhaps out of deference to Grundy, who didn't once score in double figures before doing it six times in the last seven games.

Outlook: The Wolfpack have more talented players, arguably, than several teams that will be ranked ahead of them in the ACC. NC State did not reach the NCAAs in coach Herb Sendek's first three seasons and has something to prove after losing eight of 13 games when the 1998-99 season hung in the balance.

Wolfpack DATA

Coach: Herb Sendek (53-44, 3 years; 116-70 overall, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 19-14. ACC: 6-10/5th. Lost to Princeton in NIT 2nd round.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Home court: Entertainment and Sports Arena (19,722).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
30	G	Clifford Crawford	6-3	Fr.	Shot 52 percent from the floor in senior season.					
12	G	Justin Gainey*	6-0	Sr.	8.8	2.9	3.8	42.7	87.4	34.1
24	G	Anthony Grundy	6-2	So.	8.0	3.0	2.0	40.6	63.8	34.8
21	F	Kenny Inge*	6-8	Jr.	11.0	6.1	1.1	47.9	67.2	24.0
40	C	Ron Kelley*	6-9	Jr.	11.2	5.2	0.8	51.5	59.4	100.0
11	G	Archie Miller	5-10	So.	Redshirted with back injury in 1998-99.					
3	F	Damon Thornton*	6-8	Jr.	7.0	6.3	0.9	60.1	56.2	50.0
25	F	Tim Wells	6-6	Sr.	8.2	2.6	1.7	42.2	88.3	40.0
23	F	Damien Wilkins	6-6	Fr.	Gerald's son avg. 22.1 ppg, 12.2 rpg as senior.					
33	C	Cornelius Williams	6-11	Jr.	1.0	0.7	0.0	31.3	68.8	—
32	G	Marshall Williams	6-4	Fr.	Named all-state (Wisc.) three times.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Ron Anderson	6-6	Transferred to Duquesne.					
F	Keith Bean	6-8	Transferred to Texas A&M.					
G	Adam Harrington*	6-4	Transferred to Auburn.					

Schedule

N19 Georgia
N23 Old Dominion
N26 Stetson
D1 ACC-Big 10 Chall.
D4 Providence
D12 UNC-Asheville
D17 Liberty
D22 at Tulane
D28 Yale
J6 Maryland
J8 at North Carolina
J12 Virginia
J16 Wake Forest
J19 at Duke
J22 Georgia Tech
J26 at Clemson
J29 Arizona State
F2 Florida State
F6 at Maryland
F10 North Carolina
F12 at Virginia
F15 at Wake Forest
F19 Duke
F24 at Georgia Tech
F27 Clemson
M5 at Florida State

8. Clemson

NATIONAL RANK 193

Frontcourt: Andrius Jurkunas, the most experienced returnee, has had an up-and-down career marked by streaky shooting. Jurkunas, who has made more than 100 3-pointers, was the Tigers' third-leading scorer in the NIT and did a better job of hitting the boards after grabbing six or more rebounds only three times in the first 27 games. Seven-footer Adam Allenspach did not start, but he played in all 35 games and did some good things late in the season. He shoots well, particularly at the free-throw line, which is uncommon for a Clemson big man. But he had only 15 blocked shots and needs to be more of a factor on defense.

Backcourt: Although they liked what they saw of Will Solomon, the Tigers aren't sure he is a true point guard. He received considerable playing time with Terrell McIntyre, which meant he had to learn to play without the ball. The late-summer loss of top recruit Ronald Blackshear to academics probably means freshman Ed Scott will start at the point, with Solomon on the wing and Pasha Bains, a transfer from Wyoming, as the first guard off the bench. Dustin Braddick showed promise as a freshman.

Key to success: Young big men such as Allenspach and Chucky Gilmore will have to provide an inside presence with the departure of ACC rebounding leader Harold Jamison and his longtime running mate, Tom Wideman, who had a 17-point, 17-rebound game against Butler in the NIT.

Outlook: The Tigers helped make up for a disappointing regular season by winning four NIT games before losing to California, 61-60, in the championship game. Just making the NIT would be a major accomplishment for this year's team.

Tigers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Larry Shyatt (20-15, 1 year; 39-24 overall, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 20-15. ACC: 5-11/7th. Lost to California in NIT final.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Home court: Littlejohn Coliseum (10,980).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
55	C	Adam Allenspach	7-1	Jr.	4.8	3.5	0.3	53.6	68.1	—
33	G	Pasha Bains	6-3	Fr.	Transferred from Wyoming.					
24	G	Dustin Braddick	6-5	So.	2.6	1.7	0.5	43.5	61.5	100.0
42	F	Chucky Gilmore	6-8	So.	1.1	1.7	0.2	21.2	55.6	—
21	F/C	Ray Henderson	6-8	Fr.	At 245 pounds, he'll bang down low.					
32	C/F	Arturus Javtokas	6-10	Jr.	Transferred from West Nebraska Junior College.					
3	F	Andrius Jurkunas*	6-9	Sr.	7.6	3.8	1.5	44.4	69.5	37.8
31	F	Tomas Nagys	6-9	Fr.	Native of Lithuania needs to get stronger.					
10	G	Ed Scott	6-0	Fr.	Good handle, quick feet and soft shooting touch.					
15	G	Will Solomon	6-2	So.	6.3	1.5	1.4	36.0	62.1	30.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Tony Christie	6-6	5.9	2.2	1.3	41.4	50.0	30.5
F	Harold Jamison*	6-8	12.7	9.9	1.0	67.4	52.1	—
G	Terrell McIntyre*	5-9	17.9	2.3	5.4	43.6	79.3	40.2
G	Johnny Miller*	6-0	5.9	1.1	4.1	30.0	54.5	23.6
C	Tom Wideman*	6-10	7.4	7.1	1.2	51.9	58.1	0.00

Schedule

N19 East Tenn. State
N21 Wofford
N26-28 SoCon Holiday Tour.
D1 at Penn State
D4 Chas. Southern
D11 S.C. State
D16 South Carolina
D18 Winthrop
D22 George Washington
D30 at Furman
J6 at North Carolina
J9 Wake Forest
J12 at Florida State
J15 Virginia
J19 Appalachian State
J22 at Maryland
J26 NC State
J29 at Duke
F2 Georgia Tech
F6 North Carolina
F8 at Wake Forest
F12 Florida State
F15 at Virginia
F22 Maryland
F27 at NC State
M1 Duke
M4 at Georgia Tech

9. Florida State

NATIONAL RANK 211

Frontcourt: Ron Hale had the kind of numbers last season that would have merited first-team All-ACC consideration if he had played for a better team. After starting center and shot-blocking threat Karim Shabazz left the team in December, Florida State did not have an inside presence; that is not likely to change this season. JC transfer Damous Anderson is a slasher who complements the jump-shooting Hale well. Justin Mott and Oliver Simmons will share post duties again this season, and that won't inspire fear in opponents.

Backcourt: Delvon Arrington quietly put together a solid year after sitting out the 1997-98 season as a partial qualifier. He would thrive in a system where he was surrounded by good players and could take advantage of his playmaking ability. At Florida State, he feels the need to shoot the ball, and that is not his strength. The Seminoles suffered a big blow when top recruit Tony Bobbitt failed to meet guidelines for eligibility, but Adrian Crawford is one of the ACC's best-kept secrets after hitting 64-of-161 3-pointers last year.

Key to success: Mott, never projected as more than a backup, would go long stretches last season of failing to contribute points or rebounds. He at least has a Division I center's body. Simmons is more active but is barely 6-8. If they can find some way not to be a liability, FSU knows where it can go for scoring.

Outlook: The Seminoles were 5-2 in their first seven ACC games last season, perhaps inflating expectations. That won't happen this time. Florida State lost nine of 10 before upsetting Clemson in an ACC tournament game between the Nos. 6 and 7 seeds. In all likelihood, they'll be the 8-9 teams this year.

Seminoles DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve Robinson (31-31, 2 years; 77-49 overall, 4 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-17. ACC: 5-11/T7th.
Last league title: 1991 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Home court: Leon County Civic Center (12,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	F	Damous Anderson*	6-6	Sr.	11.9	5.1	1.0	60.5	67.2	20.0
50	C	David Anderson	7-0	So.	Transferred from Brigham Young.					
10	G	Delvon Arrington*	5-11	Jr.	8.1	2.8	6.0	42.2	70.3	26.2
12	G	Matt Chlebek	6-0	Jr.	0.5	0.1	0.5	30.0	00.0	60.0
5	G	Adrian Crawford	6-5	Jr.	10.6	2.8	2.8	37.5	57.6	39.8
4	F	Antwuan Dixon	6-5	So.	1.0	1.1	0.0	42.9	33.3	33.3
34	F/C	Nigel Dixon	6-10	Fr.	Good hands and is light on his feet for his size.					
21	F	Ron Hale*	6-8	Sr.	16.0	5.6	1.4	47.6	80.0	32.8
33	F/C	Mike Matthews	6-10	Fr.	First local player signed by FSU in Robinson era.					
32	G	Emanuel Mathis	6-3	So.	1.6	0.5	0.2	30.0	55.6	44.4
42	C	Justin Mott*	6-10	Sr.	1.4	2.7	0.2	32.3	52.4	—
51	F	Oliver Simmons	6-8	Sr.	5.9	4.0	0.4	47.3	47.8	100.0
11	F	Rodney Tucker	6-8	Fr.	Great leaper and a fearless rebounder.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Terrell Baker*	6-5	14.5	4.4	2.8	43.8	73.8	30.9
C	Karim Shabazz	7-2	9.2	8.0	0.2	38.9	47.4	—
F	Ronald Thompson	6-7	1.6	1.2	0.0	40.0	56.3	00.0

Schedule

N19 at Florida
N23 Norfolk State
N27 Jacksonville
N29 Temple
D1 at Northwestern
D5 at Auburn
D11 Seton Hall
D18 Massachusetts
D22 Vanderbilt
D30 The Citadel
J4 at Wake Forest
J8 at South Florida
J12 Clemson
J16 Duke
J19 at Georgia Tech
J22 at North Carolina
J25 at Virginia
J29 Maryland
F2 at NC State
F5 Wake Forest
F12 at Clemson
F16 at Duke
F21 Georgia Tech
F23 North Carolina
F26 Virginia
M1 at Maryland
M5 NC State

Big 12

RANK 7

ASCENDING: Texas. Its record in 1998-99 wasn't significantly better than Tom Penders' final season in '97-98. But the manner in which coach Rick Barnes addressed the team's needs after his first season shows that the Longhorns, who recovered from losing seven of their first nine to win the Big 12 regular-season title, are on the right path. Barnes got a junior-college point guard, Lawrence Williams, who can help immediately and a recruit, Roosevelt Brown, who is the future.

BIG 12 CONFERENCE XII

DESCENDING: Oklahoma. The Sooners welcome back Eduardo Najera, a preseason All-American, and feisty guard Tim Heskett. But repeating last year's Sweet 16 foray will be tough after the loss of four starters.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Nebraska's Venson Hamilton. NU has a gaping hole left by the departure of the Big 12 Player of the Year, and several bodies to throw at it. The probable candidates appear to be junior-college transfers: 6-11 Kimani Ffriend and 6-8 George Mazyck.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Nebraska's Cookie Belcher. If he can get healthy after surgery on his right wrist, he is one of the country's best-kept secrets. An athletic off-guard, the 6-4 senior already owns every NU steal record. He also led the team in assists and 3-pointers.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Kansas' Lester Earl. In large part because of his chronic knee and ankle problems, Earl has never measured up to the hoopla that preceded him out of high school in Baton Rouge, La., and that accompanied him when he made his highly publicized transfer from LSU to Kansas. The effectiveness of Earl, now a senior, is in question as he tries to come back from yet another knee surgery.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Texas Tech's James Dickey. Yes, he received a contract extension after last year, but that had been agreed upon several months before the season. It was announced only after the completion of an NCAA investigation. Last year's team had the most losses of any Tech team in eight years. The Red Raiders are opening the new United Spirit Arena this season. More years like last season, and Dickey won't be around long to enjoy it.

BEST BETS: After winning or sharing seven of the previous eight conference titles, Kansas was bummed out by a second-place tie last season. But look for the Jayhawks, who get Texas transfer Luke Axtell eligible and add three blue-chip recruits, to be back atop the league and fighting for a spot in the nation's top 10 this season. ... Quin Snyder could be the catalyst to Missouri basketball that Mack Brown was to Texas football. ... First-year Baylor coach Dave Bliss has proved at Oklahoma, SMU and New Mexico he can get it done, but he won't do it any time soon in Waco, where the Dr Pepper Museum has more fizz than the Bears' roster. ... Several freshmen will make an impact in the Big 12 South. Roosevelt Brown of Texas, Oklahoma State's Andre Williams, Texas A&M's Bernard King, and Jarrett Hart and Hollis Price of Oklahoma already have college-level games.

ODDS AND ENDS: The perception nationally last season was the Big 12 was bad, a perception buttressed by a 7-21 record against the other major conferences. Fact is, though, the Big 12 probably was just young. This season, four teams return four starters, including conference tournament champion Kansas, and five schools return three starters. ... Under first-year coach Melvin Watkins, Texas A&M won more Big 12 games last season than it did in the league's first two years combined. The Aggies lost Newcomer of the Year Clifton Cook during the offseason to academic ineligibility but brought in a nine-man recruiting class ranked as high as 14th in the country. ... In two seasons, Doug Gottlieb set the Oklahoma State assists record—it's 500 and counting entering his senior season—after leading the nation in that category last year.

By Kurt Caywood *Topeka Capital-Journal*
and Cody Monk *Dallas Morning News*

Predictions

1. Kansas	7. Iowa State
2. Texas	8. Colorado
3. Oklahoma State	9. Kansas State
4. Oklahoma	10. Texas Tech
5. Missouri	11. Texas A&M
6. Nebraska	12. Baylor

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Keyon Dooling, Missouri	6-3	180	So.
G	Jeff Boschee, Kansas	6-1	185	So.
C	Chris Mihm, Texas	7-0	262	Jr.
F	Eduardo Najera, Oklahoma	6-8	235	Sr.
F	Gabe Muoneke, Texas	6-7	250	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Doug Gottlieb, Oklahoma State	6-1	180	Sr.
G	Rayford Young, Texas Tech	5-11	175	Sr.
C	Eric Chenowith, Kansas	7-0	245	Jr.
F	Desmond Mason, Oklahoma State	6-6	207	Sr.
F	Marcus Fizer, Iowa State	6-8	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

Chris Mihm, C, Texas

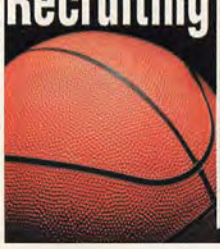
Newcomer of the Year

Kareem Rush, F/G, Missouri

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Luke Axtell, Kansas
Best rebounder: Chris Mihm, Texas
Best playmaker: Doug Gottlieb, Oklahoma State
Best defender: Cookie Belcher, Nebraska
Best leaper: Kenny Gregory, Kansas
Most versatile: Desmond Mason, Oklahoma State
Most flamboyant: Jaquay Walls, Colorado
Best NBA prospect: Chris Mihm, Texas

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Kansas: Top talents Nick Collison and Andrew Gooden are on board.
2. Missouri: Kareem Rush was the big news, but Tajudeen Soyoye is key.
3. Oklahoma: Guard Hollis Price averaged 28.8 points as prep senior.
4. Iowa State: Richard Evans tops class signed to ease guard woes.
5. Nebraska: Junior-college guy Danny Walker will help Huskers reload.
6. Baylor: Terry Black instantly is team's best player and is expected to lead.
7. Kansas State: Point guard Galen Morrison needs to help immediately.
8. Colorado: Some analysts had forward Stephane Pelle in their top 30.
9. Texas A&M: Guard Bernard King probably will start for the Aggies.
10. Texas: Roosevelt Brown will contribute in the backcourt this season.
11. Oklahoma State: Forward Andre Williams will step in right away.
12. Texas Tech: Guard Moses Malone Jr. will be eligible at Christmas.

1. Kansas

NATIONAL RANK 13

Schedule

N19 Fairfield
N24-27 at Great Alaska Shootout
D2 Pepperdine
D5 at Middle Tennessee St.
D7 Michigan State*
D11 Pittsburg State
D16 Ohio State
D18 Illinois*
D22 Princeton
D30 Sprint Shootout (in Kansas City) vs. St. Louis
J4 Pennsylvania
J8 at Colorado
J12 Kansas State
J15 Nebraska
J17 at Texas A&M
J22 at Missouri
J24 Colorado
J29 at Iowa State
F3 at Iowa
F5 Texas Tech
F7 at Oklahoma State
F12 at Kansas State
F16 Iowa State
F20 Oklahoma
F23 at Nebraska
F26 Baylor
F28 at Texas
M5 Missouri
*Chicago

Frontcourt: The Jayhawks will be strong up front, where they will have lots of size (seven players 6-8 or taller). The unit is led by center Eric Chenowith, who doubled his scoring (5.9 ppg to 13.5) and nearly doubled his rebounding averages (4.9 rpg to 9.1) from his freshman to sophomore years, and he did it as virtually the only inside threat last season. About the only help Chenowith had was the departed T.J. Pugh, who was playing on bad wheels. Chenowith went through a stage where he was settling for turnaround jumpers and wasn't playing as well. But when he started to play stronger, he played better. Unlike some of Kansas' past post players, such as Mark Randall and Richard Scott, Chenowith doesn't shoot for a high field-goal percentage (44.8), which is unusual in Roy Williams' system because it produces high-quality shots. This season, Chenowith will have some help. Two freshmen were among the top prospects available last year: Nick Collison, an Iowan who started for the U.S. team that won the silver at the Junior World Games over the summer, and Californian Andrew Gooden. Collison is smooth and good beyond his age and has drawn comparisons to Raef LaFrentz. But Collison is more mobile than LaFrentz and a better athlete. Gooden can do a lot of things, including shooting from the outside and utilizing a hook—his favorite shot. At small forward is Kenny Gregory, who was third on the team in scoring last season but has yet to settle into a definite role, and Nick Bradford, the team's only four-year scholarship player. Gregory excels in the open court but has really struggled in the halfcourt—when an opponent clamps down in a zone or a tough man-to-man, he has trouble getting the ball. Bradford is fearless and will get lots of steals from his strong defense. Lester Earl, who has generated as many medical bills as controversy since transferring from LSU, will play, but chronic knee problems have sapped the athleticism that made him a blue-chip prospect out of high school. Look for Earl to contribute rebounding help and some defense.

Backcourt: The fact that the Jayhawks have seven players 6-8 or taller is great ... if the ball ever goes inside. Point guard Jeff Boschee, the Big 12 Freshman of the Year, had no qualms about throwing darts from outside. Now Luke Axtell, who shot his way onto the league's All-Freshman team two years ago at Texas, is eligible after transferring. Neither, so far, has exhibited the kind of pass-first, shoot-second mentality of a Jacque Vaughn or Ryan Robertson. But Boschee is fearless, similar to Rex Walters in that he just will beat you and isn't afraid to take any shot. Axtell is a consistent shooter and has had time to work on his defense. The question is, did his defense improve? Marlon London, a fluid sophomore, could wind up being the defensive stopper, and freshman Kirk Hinrich will back up both guard spots.

Key to success: Last year's Jayhawks had trouble scoring. This year's won't. The challenge for the Jayhawks will be stopping the other guys. This team won't approach the 39.1 field-goal percentage defense of last year's team.

Outlook: Losing four players who were first-round NBA draft picks in two seasons took its toll last season, if you can call a 23-10 season taking its toll. This season, Kansas has reloaded and could return to its accustomed spot in the top 10.



TSN

Outside threat: *Boschee expects to have the point guard spot to himself this season. The sophomore can shoot some long bombs as well as distribute to teammates.*

Jayhawks DATA

Coach: Roy Williams (305-72, 11 years; 22-10 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-10. Big 12: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest 2nd round.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Lawrence, Kan.
Home court: Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
33	G/F	Luke Axtell	6-9	Jr.	Sat out last year after transferring from Texas.					
13	G	Jeff Boschee*	6-1	So.	10.9	1.9	3.7	38.5	73.9	35.6
21	F	Nick Bradford*	6-6	Sr.	9.2	6.0	2.7	51.3	60.2	25.0
22	F	Jeff Carey	6-9½	So.	1.5	1.8	0.3	53.3	61.5	0.0
44	C	Eric Chenowith*	7-0	Jr.	13.5	9.1	1.0	44.8	73.9	20.0
4	F	Nick Collison	6-9	Fr.	Ranked among top 20 H.S. players nationally.					
12	G	John Crider	6-3	So.	0.4	0.6	0.2	10.0	75.0	0.0
3	F	Lester Earl	6-8	Sr.	4.8	3.4	0.4	48.6	55.0	0.0
0	F	Andrew Gooden	6-9	Fr.	Reminds some of Danny Manning.					
20	G/F	Kenny Gregory	6-5	Jr.	11.3	4.7	1.7	47.0	47.8	31.4
10	G	Kirk Hinrich	6-3	Fr.	Excellent shooting range and ballhandling skills.					
32	F	Ashante Johnson	6-8	Sr.	1.1	0.8	0.1	31.8	22.2	0.0
24	G	Marlon London	6-3	So.	4.1	2.1	1.6	44.3	69.2	32.0
5	G	Terry Nooner	6-0	Sr.	0.6	0.4	0.3	18.8	71.4	13.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Jelani Janisse	6-3	0.6	0.4	0.1	80.0	--	100.0
G	Chris Martin	6-2	0.3	0.2	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
F	T.J. Pugh*	6-8	4.9	4.7	1.2	49.6	58.9	0.0
G	Ryan Robertson*	6-5	12.8	4.0	3.2	43.9	87.1	37.0

2. Texas

NATIONAL RANK 22

Schedule

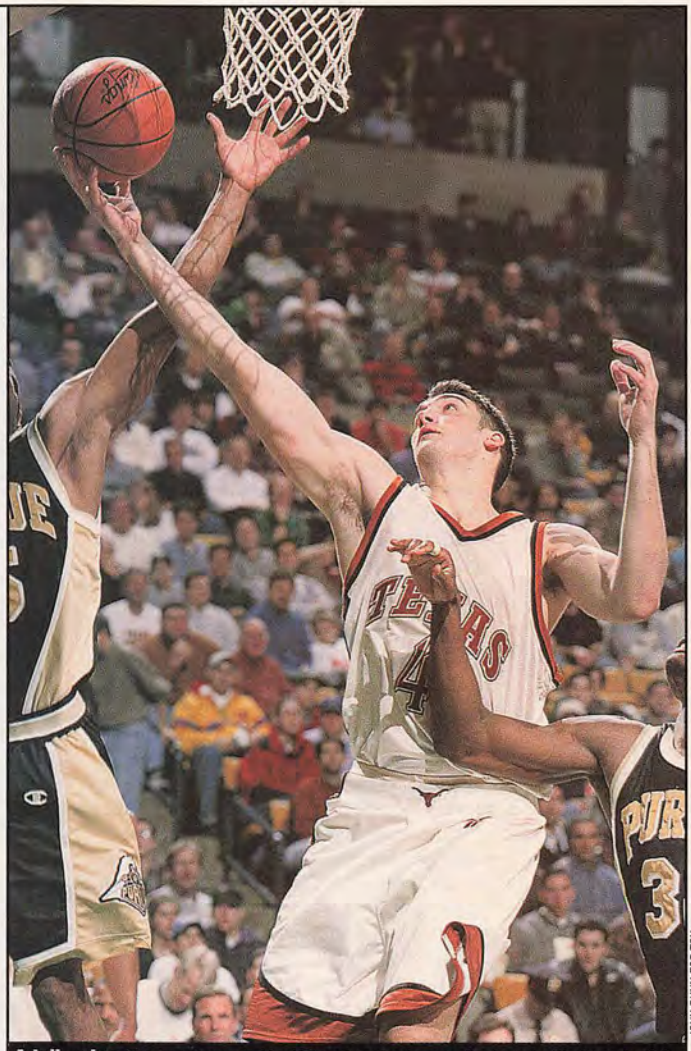
N20	Southwestern Louisiana
N25-27	at Puerto Rico Shootout
D4	Arizona
D7	at Wisconsin
D11	San Diego
D18	Wofford
D22	at Utah
D28	Niagara
J2	Houston
J6	Baylor
J10	at Connecticut
J12	at Texas A&M
J15	Oklahoma
J19	at Oklahoma State
J22	at Texas Tech
J25	Nebraska
J29	Colorado
J31	at Oklahoma
F5	at Massachusetts
F9	Texas Tech
F12	at Missouri
F16	Oklahoma State
F19	at Baylor
F22	at Iowa State
F26	Texas A&M
F28	Kansas
M4	at Kansas State

Frontcourt: The Big 12 regular-season champions could have one of the best frontcourts in the nation if one player would show more emotion and one display less. Center Chris Mihm, one of three returning starters, is one of the top big men in the country, but his lack of intensity drew the ire of coach Rick Barnes early last season. Mihm has good inside/outside skills that make him difficult to match up with—you can't put an Eric Chenowith on him to body him, and you can't put a 6-7 swingman on him because he will just pound. Because Mihm moves so well for his size, handling him and power forward Gabe Muoneke down low is a real chore. If Mihm is forced to play 35 to 38 minutes a game—and with not much to back him up, it could happen—he may wear down. The high-strung Muoneke is the key to Texas' success. He led the team in scoring last season, but he also led Texas in outbursts. He punched a Wisconsin player in the stomach, which led to a face-to-face apology, and had several run-ins with Barnes. When he's focused, Muoneke is one of the Big 12's best and most versatile players. He's strong and quick, with range up to 18 feet. He can hit the baseline jumper or fake a defender, then drive to the basket. Tulane transfer Chris Owens, a sophomore, was one of the top players in Texas three years ago. His presence gives Barnes an athletic forward who can play either position and help alleviate the Longhorns' lack of a strong backcourt. It will be interesting to see how Owens works out early as he shakes off the rust from sitting out a year.

Backcourt: Ivan Wagner is a returning starter and the team's best defensive player, but his inability to score will make him fight for his spot. Wagner's defensive game is based on quick hands, not quick feet, as he anticipates very well and tallies plenty of steals. Wagner will be pushed by junior-college transfer Lawrence Williams and two true freshmen—Roosevelt Brown and Chris Ogden—who were high-scoring prep stars. Williams is a true point guard, Brown is a great leaper and Ogden is a strong shooter in open spaces, but needs to develop a quicker release that comes from the top of his motion rather than the lower release he used in high school. The Longhorns never found a rhythm in the backcourt last season because Wagner and William Clay each shot less than 33 percent from the field. If needed, Owens can play in the backcourt.

Key to success: Barnes has some depth, which is nice after last season, when he depended on the school's five best intramural basketball players to help him have enough bodies to get through practices. Texas has to establish a rotation early and stick with it. It took the Longhorns until conference play last season to find something that worked. It wasn't too late, but the slow start affected Texas' NCAA Tournament seeding. Mihm is solid at center, but the Longhorns need to develop a backup for him. No other Texas player is taller than 6-9. Owens needs to step up as the replacement for Kris Clack. The athletic Clack was second on the team in scoring and the Longhorns' leader for four seasons.

Outlook: The Longhorns find out how good they are early, when they play host to Arizona on December 4. If Mihm doesn't wear down from playing too many minutes, another Big 12 championship is possible.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

A tall order: *The Longhorns, led by Mihm at center, boast a frontcourt with the potential to be among the nation's best. Mihm has no real backup, however.*

Longhorns DATA

Coach: Rick Barnes (19-13, 1 year; 221-147 overall, 12 years; 2-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 19-13. Big 12: 13-3/1st. Lost to Purdue in NCAA East 1st round.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Austin, Texas.
Home court: Frank Erwin Center (16,175).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	G	Roosevelt Brown	6-3	Fr.	Led Duncanville H.S. to Class 5A state title.					
23	G	William Clay	6-2	Sr.	8.1	2.7	1.0	33.9	69.9	27.5
25	G	Darren Kelly	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Brown Mackie (Kan.) JC.					
21	G	Chris McColpin	6-0	Jr.	1.7	0.5	1.1	46.4	82.4	44.4
4	C	Chris Mihm*	7-0	Jr.	13.7	11.0	0.6	44.9	68.3	0.0
3	F	Gabe Muoneke*	6-7	Sr.	16.5	6.6	1.9	49.5	61.0	51.0
45	F	Chris Ogden	6-7	Fr.	1998-99 Mr. Basketball for state of Texas.					
20	F/G	Chris Owens	6-8	So.	Transferred from Tulane.					
5	G	Ivan Wagner*	6-1	Sr.	6.1	3.7	3.9	31.2	71.8	29.9
22	G	Lawrence Williams	6-1	Jr.	Transferred from Panola (Texas) JC.					
2	F	William Wyatt	6-7	Fr.	Top 25 small forward out of high school.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/C	Wendell Carter	6-9	3.0	2.1	0.3	54.1	39.5	--
F	Kris Clack*	6-5	14.2	6.4	1.5	40.4	68.7	30.8
F/C	Marlon Drakes	6-8	3.7	2.0	0.3	58.8	25.0	--
G	DeJuan Vazquez*	6-4	5.8	2.8	1.5	43.6	59.5	31.7

3. Oklahoma State

NATIONAL RANK 24

Schedule

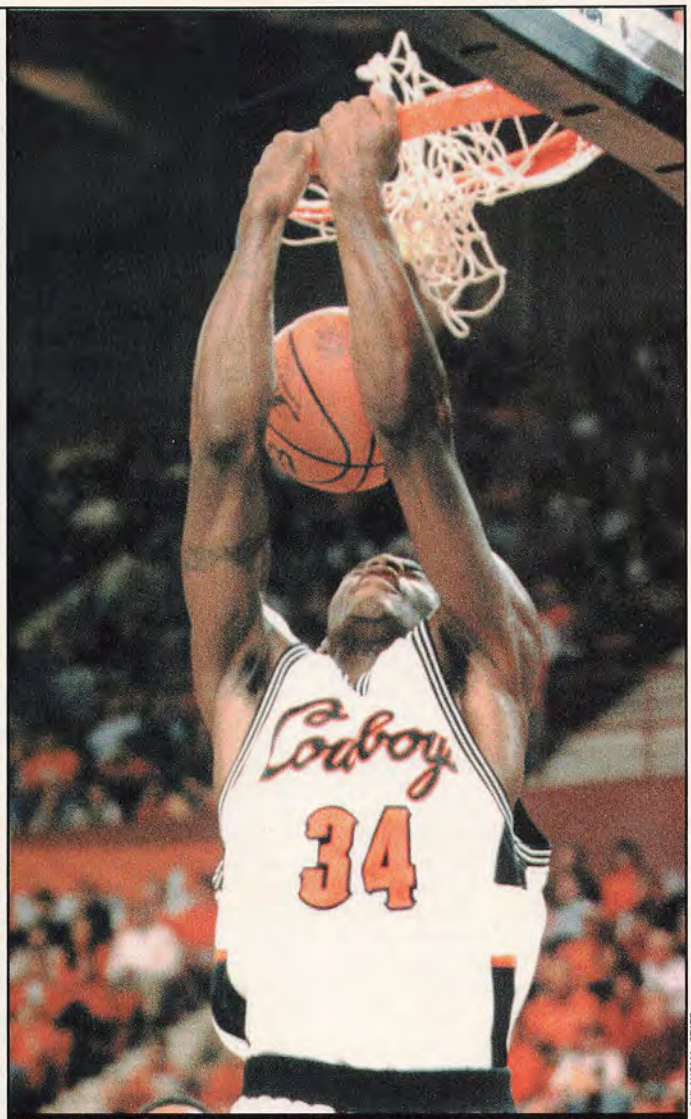
N19-20 America's Youth Classic
N23 Arkansas-Little Rock
N27 North Texas
D1 Wichita State
D4 Texas-San Antonio
D12 San Diego State
D15 Alcorn State
D18 at UNLV
D21 at Washington
D30 LSU*
J8 Texas Tech
J15 at Baylor
J19 Texas
J22 at Texas A&M
J26 at Kansas State
J30 Baylor
F2 at Texas Tech
F5 Texas A&M
F7 Kansas
F12 at Oklahoma
F16 at Texas
F19 Nebraska
F21 at Missouri
F26 at Iowa State
M1 Colorado
M4 Oklahoma
*New Orleans

Frontcourt: The Cowboys return four starters, but the one loss is a big one. Forward Adrian Peterson is the school's No. 3 all-time leading scorer and leaves a large rebounding and defensive void. The positive is that five of the eight Cowboys returnees have frontcourt experience. Desmond Mason, who started all 34 games last year, is the leader of the group. He averaged 15.4 points and 7.9 rebounds last season, both team highs, but he needs to score more consistently this year to make up for the loss of Peterson, who led the Cowboys in scoring for the past three seasons. Glendon Alexander, an excellent shooter from the perimeter, will start at guard, but he can play small forward or be the extra forward in a three-forward lineup. Oklahoma State is loaded with center prospects. Four players are 6-10 or taller, including returning starter Alex Webber and 7-2, 380-pound Roy Candley, the biggest player ever in Stillwater. Webber started all but one game at center as a junior last season and made tremendous strides in rebounds, free-throw percentage, field-goal percentage, steals and blocks. Although 6-10 sophomore forward Fredrik Jonzen has only one collegiate season of experience under his belt, he adds further experience to the Cowboys' roster after playing internationally as a member of the Swedish national team. He played in every game for Oklahoma State last season. Also adding height are 7-0 sophomore center Jason Keep and 6-9 senior Brian Montonati.

Backcourt: The Cowboys have one of the most complete backcourts in the country. Point guard Doug Gottlieb, who holds the school record for career assists, led the nation in assists last season, becoming only the second Oklahoma State player to lead the country in a major statistical category. His 299 assists in 1998-99 rank 13th in NCAA history. At shooting guard, Joe Adkins and Alexander both will start, giving the Cowboys an athletic and accurate backcourt. Alexander is the better scorer, but Adkins is the better defender and passer. Adkins hit the big shots when it counted last season, scoring the key points in close victories over UNLV, Southern Mississippi, Nebraska and Syracuse. The Cowboys need to find backup help, as Adkins and Gottlieb are the only true guards on the team with significant experience.

Key to success: The Cowboys are going to have to find a consistent scorer to replace Peterson. Oklahoma State is experienced (seven of the eight returnees are seniors) but has little backup help, especially at guard. Junior-college transfer Daniel Lawson will add vital depth and needs to have an immediate impact in the backcourt. Lawson was the Michigan community college player of the year last season after leading Mott of Flint to a No. 2 national ranking, and he was a second-team All-American. He can play either spot, and at 6-6, he gives the Cowboys a bigger option than Adkins or Gottlieb, who are 6-2 and 6-1, respectively.

Outlook: There is no substitute for experience, and Oklahoma State has it. The seven seniors on the team, five of whom started at least 15 games last season, have been to two NCAA Tournaments. They should be headed back, possibly with their first Big 12 championship since winning the Big Eight in 1990-91 season.



OKLAHOMA STATE

It's my turn: *After starting every game for the Cowboys last season, Mason is ready to be the team leader with Peterson gone.*

Cowboys DATA

Coach: Eddie Sutton (202-88, 9 years; 632-252 overall, 29 years; 29-20 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-11. Big 12: 10-6/T 5th. Lost to Auburn in NCAA South second round.
Last league title: 1991 (tie, Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Stillwater, Okla.
Home court: Gallagher-Iba Arena (6,381).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
35	G	Joe Adkins*	6-2	Sr.	10.0	2.4	4.1	37.7	75.0	34.3
4	G/F	Glendon Alexander	6-5	Sr.	9.4	2.8	1.0	39.5	83.6	39.1
54	C	Roy Candley	7-2	Jr.	Redshirted and practiced with team in 1998-99.					
42	G/F	Zac Cazzelle	6-5	Jr.	Walk-on redshirt in 1998-99.					
44	G	Doug Gottlieb*	6-1	Sr.	4.2	2.2	8.8	31.4	44.4	24.2
12	F	Fredrik Jonzen	6-10	So.	2.3	2.7	0.3	46.9	42.9	0.0
43	C	Jason Keep	7-0	So.	Transferred from North Idaho College.					
3	G	Daniel Lawson	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Mott (Mich.) CC.					
34	F	Desmond Mason*	6-6	Sr.	15.4	7.9	0.8	48.0	74.6	34.2
30	F	Brian Montonati	6-9	Sr.	6.8	4.4	0.5	50.9	80.5	0.0
24	G	Rodney Sooter	6-2	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
45	F	Alex Webber*	6-10	Sr.	6.4	5.0	0.4	58.6	67.8	0.0
40	F	Andre Williams	6-9	Fr.	Could make immediate impact on front line.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/G	Adrian Peterson*	6-4	17.7	5.7	1.1	45.0	74.6	40.8

4. Oklahoma

NATIONAL RANK 28

Frontcourt: The Sooners lost four starters from last year's Sweet 16 team, but they return that team's best player in senior Eduardo Najera, one of the league's best all-around players. He led Oklahoma last year in scoring and rebounding and was second in assists, steals and blocks. He can score on the block or from the outside, where a year ago he made 51 three-pointers. Small forward Ryan Humphrey, a third-team All-Big 12 selection, transferred, which could force Najera to play more on the perimeter. That means Oklahoma needs big years from senior centers Renzi Stone, who started 18 games a year ago, and Victor Avila.

Backcourt: Coach Kelvin Sampson thinks this team can improve on last year's performance. His confidence is based upon a backcourt that is deep but inexperienced. Of Oklahoma's seven guards, only one—Tim Heskett—has significant Division I experience. Heskett can ease the loss of Alex Spaulding, Michael Johnson and Eric Martin, all starters in OU's three-guard lineup a year ago, by continuing to shoot well. Last season, he set a school record by hitting 47.3 percent of his 3-pointers. Kelley Newton, coming off knee surgery, and J.R. Raymond, a partial qualifier last year, could make a three-guard set look enticing again.

Key to success: Stone and Avila must become scoring threats in the low post to force double-teams away from Najera. Teams are going to be physical with Najera, so the Sooners need to find a high-quality backup so he doesn't have to play so many minutes.

Outlook: Najera's presence helps ease the loss of four starters. If the Sooners can get help from inexperienced players, Oklahoma can challenge Texas and Oklahoma State in the Big 12 South.

Sooners DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (103-55, 5 years; 279-203 overall, 16 years; 2-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-11. Big 12: 11-5/T2nd. Lost to Michigan St. in NCAA Midwest semis.
Last league title: 1989 (Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Norman, Okla.
Home court: Lloyd Noble Center (11,100).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	C	Victor Avila	6-10	Sr.	3.3	3.0	0.2	45.9	60.4	0.0
3	G	Michael Cano	6-1	So.	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.0	--	--
30	G	Jarrett Hart	6-3	Fr.	17.4 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 7.3 apg as senior in H.S.					
14	G	Tim Heskett	6-1	Jr.	9.5	1.8	2.1	44.3	83.6	47.3
34	F	Jameel Heywood	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Coffeyville (Kan.) CC.					
5	G	Nolan Johnson	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Kilgore (Texas) JC.					
21	F	Eduardo Najera*	6-8	Sr.	15.5	8.3	2.2	41.5	64.2	34.2
20	G	Kelley Newton	6-2	Jr.	Redshirted with torn ACL in 1998-99.					
10	G	Hollis Price	6-1	Fr.	Top 50 prep prospect by several publications.					
11	G	J.R. Raymond	6-2	Fr.	Sat out last season as academic partial qualifier.					
22	C	Oleg Reztsov	7-2	Sr.	0.2	0.4	0.0	33.3	0.0	--
33	F/C	Renzi Stone	6-10	Sr.	3.6	3.7	1.1	53.1	63.6	--

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Ryan Humphrey*	6-8	Transferred to Notre Dame.					
G	Michael Johnson*	6-0	11.6	3.6	3.9	36.3	80.6	33.1
G/F	Eric Martin*	6-5	12.1	4.7	1.8	41.8	81.7	43.6
G	Alex Spaulding*	6-3	4.0	2.5	2.0	30.8	50.0	28.6

Schedule

N18-21 at Top of the World Classic
N26-27 Sooner Holiday Classic
D4 Mississippi
D7 at Arkansas
D11 Ark-Little Rock
D18 Georgia Southern
D22 Cincinnati
D29-30 All-College Tournament
J3 Lamar
J8 Texas A&M
J11 Baylor
J15 at Texas
J19 at Colorado
J22 Iowa State
J29 at Texas Tech
J31 Texas
F5 at Baylor
F8 Kansas State
F12 Oklahoma State
F14 at Nebraska
F20 at Kansas
F23 Texas Tech
F26 Missouri
M1 at Texas A&M
M4 at Oklahoma State

5. Missouri

NATIONAL RANK 35

Frontcourt: No proven center, no depth, one scholarship senior and a transfer from Nigeria by way of Mississippi. It's not the brightest picture. In place of Monte Hardge, the departed behemoth, the Tigers have Pat Schumacher, a soft-shooting sophomore who is their only player taller than 6-9. At forward, Jeff Hafer is Mizzou's lone scholarship senior and, as the quintessential Norm Stewart-style tough guy, the player who faces the biggest transition into the system of new coach Quin Snyder. Junior Johnnie Parker, who has been most effective on the perimeter, will have to become a bigger factor on the boards, and newcomer Tajudeen Soyoye, a first-team junior-college All-American, needs to fit in quickly.

Backcourt: If the frontcourt is the shallow end, MU's guards are the diving pool. Keyon Dooling was electrifying at times during a turbulent freshman year and probably will benefit most from Snyder's arrival. Junior Brian Grawer, the nation's seventh-best 3-point shooter last season, leads all returnees in scoring and rebounding. And Clarence Gilbert, a high school teammate of Dooling's, was a backup who made the Big 12 all-freshman team. Two top-50 high school prospects, Kareem Rush and Josh Kroenke, whom Snyder signed immediately upon his arrival, make this group of guards one of the best in the conference.

Key to success: Adjusting from Stewart's tough, physical style to Snyder's more up-tempo, '90s way of doing things is the first key. Getting a rebound is the second.

Outlook: Assuming Snyder's Duke pedigree can make up for his lack of head coaching experience, he should be a breath of fresh air for Mizzou and the Big 12.

Tigers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Quin Snyder (first year).
1998-99 record: 20-9. Big 12: 11-5/2nd. Lost to New Mexico in NCAA West first round.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Eight).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Columbia, Mo.
Home court: Hearnes Center (13,300).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
5	G	Keyon Dooling*	6-3	So.	8.7	2.1	3.0	45.9	71.8	28.6
4	G	Clarence Gilbert	6-2	So.	4.2	2.3	1.1	34.9	63.6	27.3
12	G	Brian Grawer*	6-0	Jr.	9.6	4.1	2.7	48.1	78.7	49.6
24	F/G	Jeff Hafer	6-5	Sr.	5.8	3.8	2.0	49.1	68.0	44.4
	G	Josh Kroenke	6-4	Fr.	Top 50 national recruit by many publications.					
31	G/F	Johnnie Parker	6-6	Jr.	5.3	3.9	0.9	40.0	60.8	41.9
52	F	Matt Rowan	6-7	So.	1.1	1.5	0.3	29.4	50.0	0.0
	F	Kareem Rush	6-6	Fr.	Missouri's high school player of the year.					
54	C	Pat Schumacher	7-0	So.	3.3	1.7	0.3	54.2	77.4	0.0
3	F	Kenge Stevenson	6-5	So.	1.1	0.8	0.0	50.0	54.5	0.0
	F/C	Tajudeen Soyoye	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Meridian (Miss.) CC.					
11	G/F	Mark Wampler	6-5	Sr.	0.6	0.5	0.0	40.0	20.0	100.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Monte Hardge*	6-11	7.2	5.7	0.6	45.6	44.0	0.0
F	Albert White*	6-5	16.3	8.7	3.0	45.4	68.6	29.5
G	John Woods*	6-3	11.9	1.8	0.8	42.8	79.6	37.3

Schedule

N12 Wisconsin*
N19 UNC-Asheville
N21 Western Carolina
N27 Morgan State
D1 Southern Methodist
D7 Indiana
D12 at St. Louis
D18 Iowa
D21 Illinois#
D30 Kentucky+
J4 Winthrop
J8 at Iowa State
J12 Colorado
J15 Kansas State
J18 at Baylor
J22 Kansas
J29 Texas A&M
F2 at Colorado
F5 at Nebraska
F9 Iowa State
F12 Texas
F16 at Texas Tech
F19 at Kansas State
F21 Oklahoma State
F26 at Oklahoma
M1 Nebraska
M5 at Kansas
*Syracuse, N.Y.
#St. Louis
+New Orleans

6. Nebraska

NATIONAL RANK 63

Frontcourt: Last season, the Cornhuskers were an NIT team even though they had the Big 12 player of the year. Now, they'll have to fight their way back to the NCAA Tournament without Venson Hamilton. To do it, they'll need immediate contributions from JC transfers Kimani Ffriend and George Mazyck. Larry Florence, the leader up front, will be a third-year starter; he was third on the team in scoring and rebounding and could do better. Louis Truscott, Nebraska's marquee recruit two years ago, showed flashes and could start under the right circumstances, although JC transfer Steffon Bradford seems to be penciled in at power forward.

Backcourt: Senior Cookie Belcher is Nebraska's leading returning scorer. He already owns NU's single-game, season and career steals record and is a two-time member of the Big 12 all-defensive team. Rodney Fields, a junior who wore a medical redshirt last season, is an unproven backup. Transfer Danny Walker was considered one of the best point guards in the juco ranks and could take over the starting spot, but Cary Cochran was tough as a freshman and should give Walker some competition.

Key to success: Danny Nee needs to meld his six newcomers, four of them junior-college products, with his existing nucleus if he's going to lead the Huskers to an 11th straight postseason appearance.

Outlook: Belcher is one of the Big 12's most underappreciated players. If his leadership skills as a senior match the athleticism he has shown through his first three years, the Cornhuskers might just have the tools to end up on the right side of the NCAA bubble this season.

Cornhuskers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Danny Nee (243-171, 13 years; 350-238; 19 years; 1-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-13. Big 12: 10-6/T5th. Lost to TCU in NIT 2nd round.
Last league title: 1950 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Lincoln, Neb.
Home court: Bob Devaney Sports Center (14,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
30	G	Cookie Belcher*	6-4	Sr.	11.8	3.3	4.3	43.1	62.7	30.5
1	F	Kenny Booker	6-8	Fr.	15.1 ppg, 8.2 rpg at Mt. Zion (N.C.) Academy.					
15	F	Steffon Bradford	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Compton (Calif.) CC.					
23	F	Ross Buckendahl	6-5	Jr.	1.2	0.8	0.3	66.7	--	100.0
3	G	Cary Cochran	6-2	So.	5.4	1.4	0.9	40.0	93.5	39.8
20	F/C	Brian Conklin	6-11	Fr.	18.1 pts., 12.5 rebs. at Hubbard (Ohio) H.S.					
12	C	Kimani Ffriend	6-11	Jr.	Transferred from Gulf Coast (Fla.) CC.					
11	G	Rodney Fields	6-2	Jr.	Redshirted with leg injury in 1998-99.					
5	F	Larry Florence*	6-5	Sr.	10.3	4.1	1.6	50.8	73.7	25.0
13	F/C	George Mazyck	6-8½	So.	Transferred from Coffeyville (Kan.) CC.					
51	F	Louis Truscott	6-7	So.	3.3	2.8	0.3	38.6	67.8	25.0
0	G	Danny Walker	6-1	Jr.	Transferred from Compton (Calif.) CC.					
34	G	Craig Wortmann	6-4	Jr.	0.3	0.7	0.0	50.0	--	0.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Venson Hamilton*	6-10	15.7	10.2	1.6	50.0	65.7	0.0
G	Joe Holmes*	5-11	Transferred to Pfeiffer University (Division II).					
G/F	Chad Johnson	6-6	Transferred to Pittsburgh.					
F	Andy Markowski*	6-8	6.4	5.6	2.2	50.0	49.3	0.0
G/F	Troy Piatkowski	6-5	4.7	1.6	0.8	39.6	69.2	27.6
G	Todd Smith	6-4	Transferred, school to be announced.					

Schedule

N23 Eastern Illinois
N26-28 at Hoop & Quill Classic
D3-4 Ameritas Classic
D8 at Creighton
D11 Pittsburgh
D18 Arizona*
D20 San Francisco
D22 Oral Roberts
D31 at Minnesota
J4 Pacific
J8 at Kansas State
J12 Iowa State
J15 at Kansas
J19 Texas Tech
J22 Baylor
J25 at Texas
J29 Kansas State
F5 Missouri
F9 at Colorado
F12 at Iowa State
F14 Oklahoma
F19 at Oklahoma State
F23 Kansas
F26 Colorado
M1 at Missouri
M4 at Texas A&M
*Las Vegas

7. Iowa State

NATIONAL RANK 73

Frontcourt: Larry Eustachy went .500 in his first season as coach, and for that he can thank Marcus Fizer. The first McDonald's All-American to sign with ISU was an All-Big 12 first-teamer as a sophomore after leading the league in scoring. Small forward Stevie Johnson, who tied Fizer for the team rebounding lead and led the team in assists, is back for his senior year. Martin Rancik showed above-average shooting range, and Paul Shirley, who closed the 1998 season strongly, is back after a redshirt year.

Backcourt: Larry Eustachy went .500 in his first season, and for that he can blame his guards. Michael Nurse made the Big 12's all-newcomer team and was ISU's second-best player, but he averaged fewer than three assists at the point. Truth is, the Cyclones have been guard-poor for years, a fact Eustachy went to great lengths to remedy by signing a five-man, all-guard recruiting class. Kantrail Horton, a preseason junior-college All-American as a sophomore, practiced with the Cyclones last winter and should step right in at one spot or the other. Transfer Richard Evans, a swingman, was rated by SLAM magazine as one of the top-10 impact players from the JC ranks.

Key to success: So much rests with the guards. Again last season, the Cyclones had more turnovers than assists. If they can get the ball downcourt and inside to Fizer, their chances of winning double. Shooting better than 32.5 percent from 3-point range wouldn't hurt, either.

Outlook: Look for the Cyclones somewhere in the middle of the Big 12 pack, with a chance to jump up and bite some teams if a couple of those newcomers excel.

Cyclones DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Larry Eustachy (15-15, 1 year; 174-101 overall, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-15. Big 12: 6-10/9th.
Last league title: 1945 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Ames, Iowa.
Home court: Hilton Coliseum (14,044).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G/F	Richard Evans	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Kilgore (Texas) College.					
5	F	Marcus Fizer*	6-8	Jr.	18.0	7.6	1.1	45.0	73.6	21.4
	G	Brandon Hawkins	6-3	Fr.	17.0 ppg, 7.0 apg at St. Thomas More Academy.					
11	G	Kantrail Horton	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from Middle Georgia JC.					
23	F	Stevie Johnson*	6-4	Sr.	8.1	7.6	3.1	47.9	61.0	12.5
53	G	Michael Nurse*	5-11	Sr.	10.3	2.8	2.8	38.0	63.6	32.9
55	C	Tony Rampton	6-11	Sr.	1.3	1.8	0.2	40.0	54.2	0.0
15	F	Martin Rancik*	6-9	Jr.	10.3	4.3	0.6	41.8	87.1	41.5
45	F	Paul Shirley	6-10	Jr.	Redshirted with pelvis injury in 1998-99.					
	G	Jamaal Tinsley	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from Mount San Jacinto (Calif.) CC.					
	G	Thomas Watkins	6-1	Jr.	Transferred from Mesa (Ariz.) CC.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Paris Corner	6-3	Transferred, school to be announced.					
F/C	Klay Edwards	6-9	5.8	4.7	0.3	54.9	70.7	0.0
G	Lamar Gregg	6-3	Transferred, school to be announced.					
G	Rodney Hampton*	6-2	Transferred, school to be announced.					

Schedule

N19 at Drake
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D3-4 Norwest Cyclone Challenge
D8 Wisconsin-Milwaukee
D11 Iowa
D19 Northern Iowa
D21-22 Tribune Holiday Classic
D28 Maryland-Eastern Shore
J2 Arkansas State
J8 Missouri
J12 at Nebraska
J16 Colorado
J19 at Kansas State
J22 at Oklahoma
J26 Texas A&M
J29 Kansas
F2 Kansas State
F9 at Missouri
F12 Nebraska
F16 at Kansas
F19 at Colorado
F22 Texas
F26 Oklahoma State
M1 at Texas Tech
M4 at Baylor

8. Colorado

NATIONAL RANK 80

Frontcourt: Weakness up front has been a problem at Colorado for years, but a new day might be dawning in Boulder. Jamahl Mosley missed the first 11 games last year after offseason knee surgery, but he averaged 14 points and 8.5 rebounds in the last 11. While Mosley was struggling, the Buffaloes threw skinny Carlton Carter into the deep end, but by the end of the season he was swimming well enough to make the Big 12 all-freshman team. Will Smith, a senior, should start at small forward with one more chance to live up to his potential. If he doesn't, sophomore Aki Thomas or transfer D.J. Harrison could move into the spot.

Backcourt: Jaquay Walls can vanish. Early last year, the transfer would be around for warmups, then—poof!—not be heard from after tipoff. Over the final third of the season, though, Walls saved his disappearing act for opponents, leaving them flat-footed with quick cuts to the hole. As a result, the non-traditional point guard averaged almost 16 points down the stretch, and Colorado won seven of its last 10. Sophomore Jose Winston gives CU talented depth at the point. At shooting guard, Nick Mohr, who had a good freshman season cut short by a torn ACL, will soften the blow of the departure of 3-point artist Kenny Price.

Key to success: If the Buffaloes can do a better job rebounding this season, they can win.

Outlook: This is coach Ricardo Patton's program. Colorado plays hard. It defends. It doesn't quit. It is built largely on high school signees. With only two seniors and three juniors, this is a young team, but if the big guys can produce, the NCAA Tournament is a realistic goal.

Buffaloes DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Ricardo Patton (55-45, 4 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-13. Big 12: 7-9/T7th. Lost to Colorado State in NIT 2nd round.
Last league title: 1969 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Boulder, Colo.
Home court: Coors Events/Conference Center (11,076).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F	Carlton Carter	6-10	So.	5.5	4.4	0.5	43.9	59.2	00.0
50	F/C	Richard Fox	6-10	Fr.	Had 67.5% FG%, averaged 18.8 ppg as senior.					
44	F	D.J. Harrison	6-7	Jr.	Son of former NFL player Dennis Harrison.					
24	G	Nick Mohr	6-4	So.	10.6	3.4	1.4	45.1	76.2	25.8
5	F	Jamahl Mosley*	6-8	Jr.	10.1	6.6	0.6	47.4	78.0	—
34	F	Stephane Pelle	6-8	Fr.	Fourth-team *Parade* All-American last year.					
23	F	Ernest Renfroe	6-7	Jr.	3.4	2.4	0.5	48.3	39.7	—
10	F	Will Smith*	6-6	Sr.	7.6	4.0	0.9	42.9	69.3	23.5
42	F	Aki Thomas	6-8	So.	5.6	4.5	0.4	47.9	53.8	50.0
4	G	Jaquay Walls*	6-3	Sr.	11.7	3.2	3.9	39.2	73.7	30.4
11	G	Kyle Williams	6-6	So.	5.6	1.2	0.7	41.9	63.6	34.2
12	G	Jose Winston	6-0	So.	2.3	3.2	3.6	25.7	62.5	19.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Dwight Jones*	5-11	6.1	2.3	1.5	37.4	75.0	36.6
G/F	Tyron Manlove	6-4	11.8	4.0	1.5	39.3	58.3	35.1
G	Kenny Price*	6-4	14.6	4.0	1.7	39.5	74.1	37.7

Schedule

N19 St. Mary's
N25 Yale
N28 at Virginia Commonwealth
D4 California
D8 at Colorado State
D18 Eastern Washington
D21 New Mexico State
D27-30 at Outriggers Hotel Rainbow Classic
J4 at Denver
J8 Kansas
J12 at Missouri
J16 at Iowa State
J19 Oklahoma
J22 Kansas State
J24 at Kansas
J29 at Texas
F2 Missouri
F5 at Kansas State
F8 Nebraska
F12 at Texas A&M
F15 Texas-Pan Amer.
F19 Iowa State
F23 Baylor
F26 at Nebraska
M1 at Oklahoma State
M4 Texas Tech

9. Kansas State

NATIONAL RANK 130

Frontcourt: Tony Kitt might not have been the Big 12's best big man last season, but he was its most efficient. Averaging fewer than 20 minutes, Kitt set a school record by shooting 60.1 percent from the floor, led the Wildcats in rebounding and tied for the team lead in blocks. Now a senior, he will lead K-State's frontliners with help from 7-footer Joe Leonard, who played well late last season; athletic sophomore Travis Reynolds; junior-college transfer Kelvin Howell; and Ivan Sulich, a 6-9 Croatian acquisition. Freshman Donnie Wallace was a *USA Today* honorable-mention All-American.

Backcourt: Shooting guard is covered. Cortez Groves is the Wildcats' top returning scorer, and senior Josh Reid already ranks fifth in school history in 3-pointers. Point guard is thin again. Galen Morrison, who was all-region in junior college last season, was expected to move into the starting spot, with Josh Kimm as an oft-used backup. But Kimm will miss the season after suffering a torn ACL playing in a summer league, and the Wildcats will have to press someone into ballhandling duty—possibly Kenyatta Dix, who sat out last year as a partial qualifier. Quentin Buchanan, Kansas' Mr. Basketball last season, could play a role.

Key to success: At least three of K-State's five newcomers need to settle quickly into significant roles, or the Wildcats will find themselves outmanned by an upgraded nonconference schedule.

Outlook: With six seniors and high expectations, last year's seventh-place finish in the Big 12 and first-round NIT loss were huge disappointments. This year, coach Tom Asbury can hope a bunch of fresh faces will bring better chemistry and better shooting to a team known for its defense.

Wildcats DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Tom Asbury (76-69, 5 years; 201-128 overall, 11 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-13. Big 12: 7-9/T7th. Lost to Texas Christian in NIT 1st round.
Last league title: 1977 (Big Eight).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Manhattan, Kan.
Home court: Bramlage Coliseum (13,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Quentin Buchanan	6-7	Fr.	Named Mr. Kansas Basketball last season.					
23	G	Kenyatta Dix	6-1	So.	Sat out 1998-99 season as partial qualifier.					
24	G	Cortez Groves*	6-5	Sr.	9.9	3.2	2.0	35.7	74.1	35.8
	F/C	Kelvin Howell	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Westark (Ark.) CC.					
00	G	Josh Kimm	6-1	So.	2.2	1.0	1.1	41.5	75.0	40.0
42	F	Tony Kitt*	6-8	Sr.	8.8	7.6	0.7	60.1	60.2	—
33	C	Joe Leonard	7-0	Jr.	1.4	1.5	0.1	31.0	63.6	—
	G	Galen Morrison	6-0	Jr.	Transferred from Iowa Western CC.					
22	G	Josh Reid*	6-6	Sr.	9.7	4.4	1.7	39.9	75.0	35.3
3	F	Travis Reynolds	6-7	So.	1.9	2.4	0.8	50.9	40.0	00.0
	F	Donnie Wallace	6-9	Fr.	Averaged 15.5 ppg and 8.3 rpg as a senior.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Manny Dies	6-9	10.0	6.2	0.5	49.2	73.9	0.0
G	Chris Griffin*	6-2	6.7	3.0	4.1	40.7	64.1	30.0
F	Jay Heidrick	6-6	0.4	0.6	0.2	25.0	50.0	—
G/F	Ayome May	6-5	8.4	3.3	1.3	44.2	62.2	28.6
F/C	Shawn Rhodes*	6-11	7.8	4.9	2.1	38.1	66.7	32.5
F	David Ries	6-6	0.5	0.7	0.0	28.6	25.0	—
F	Ty Sims	6-5	3.3	1.5	0.3	49.3	60.8	0.0

Schedule

N16-26 Preseason NIT
N21 Northwestern State
N29 Texas-San Antonio
D4 New Orleans
D8 Memphis
D11 at Illinois
D19 at Loyola-Chicago
D22 Old Dominion
D29 at Georgia State
J4 Long Beach State
J8 Nebraska
J12 at Kansas
J15 at Missouri
J19 Iowa State
J22 at Colorado
J26 Oklahoma State
J29 at Nebraska
F2 at Iowa State
F5 Colorado
F9 at Oklahoma
F12 Kansas
F19 Missouri
F23 Texas A&M
F26 at Texas Tech
M1 at Baylor
M4 Texas

10. Texas Tech

NATIONAL RANK 143

Frontcourt: Tech went with a three-guard lineup for most of last year, but that could change this season because of development by frontcourt players Andy Ellis and Cliff Owens. Ellis started six games as a true freshman a year ago, but he didn't completely adjust to the college game until late in the season. Ellis' offensive skills are there, but at 205 pounds, he gets pushed around by the Big 12's top centers. Strength also is a problem with returning starter Brodney Kennard, Mario Layne and Jayson Mitchell. They all are at least 6-4, but 190 pounds or lighter. Owens, one of the Big 12's strongest players, usually draws the opposing center. But he has trouble staying on the floor because of foul trouble.

Backcourt: Rayford Young is one of the Big 12's most exciting and explosive players. The senior guard led Tech in scoring and takes over the role as team leader from Stan Bonewitz. Young could be the quickest player in the league, which helps make up for his 5-11 size. When he gets hot, he scores in bunches. In a game last season, he scored 32 points in the last nine minutes. James Ware will start opposite Young, but backups are a concern. Jevon Banks is the only other guard who has played at Tech.

Key to success: Hit the weight room. Only three players weigh more than 195 pounds. Tech also needs immediate help at guard from Houston transfer Moses Malone Jr., who is eligible at Christmas, and freshman Ronald Hobbs.

Outlook: Four starters return from what was coach James Dickey's worst team in his eight-year tenure. With only two players who have significant Big 12 experience, the Red Raiders will be improved, but not in the upper echelon of the South.

Red Raiders DATA

Coach: James Dickey (145-89, 8 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-17. Big 12: 5-11/11th.
Last league title: 1996 (Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Lubbock, Texas.
Home court: Lubbock Municipal Coliseum (8,174).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	G	Jevon Banks	5-10	Jr.	3.8	1.4	1.6	35.4	70.6	29.7
55	C	Andy Ellis	6-10	So.	9.0	4.9	0.9	47.4	70.3	—
	F	Ronald Hobbs	6-4	Fr.						
33	F	Brodney Kennard	6-6	Sr.	3.8	4.3	0.7	53.4	51.2	00.0
14	F	Mario Layne*	6-6	Sr.	5.4	3.2	1.6	44.7	48.0	00.0
	G	Moses Malone Jr.	6-5	So.	Transferred from Houston; eligible 2nd semester.					
50	F	Jayson Mitchell	6-4	Jr.	3.3	2.2	0.8	29.4	69.8	25.0
13	F	Cliff Owens*	6-8	Sr.	10.4	7.0	0.8	51.2	62.1	—
25	C	Johnny Phillips*	6-9	Jr.	5.7	3.0	0.4	51.8	65.5	—
5	G	James Ware	6-4	Sr.	6.2	2.0	0.8	45.5	69.7	44.0
3	G	Rayford Young*	5-11	Sr.	16.1	3.0	3.9	43.8	87.7	39.2

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Stan Bonewitz*	6-3	12.1	4.4	4.2	43.5	83.1	43.4

Schedule

N19 Indiana
N24 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
N27 at Texas-El Paso
D1 North Texas
D6 at Stephen F. Austin
D11 Prairie View A&M
D17 at New Mexico St.
D21 Southwest Texas St.
D29 Oral Roberts
J3 Southwestern Louisiana
J8 at Oklahoma State
J15 Texas A&M
J19 at Nebraska
J22 Texas
J26 at Baylor
J29 Oklahoma
F2 Oklahoma State
F5 at Kansas
F9 at Texas
F12 Baylor
F16 Missouri
F19 at Texas A&M
F23 at Oklahoma
F26 Kansas State
M1 Iowa State
M4 at Colorado

11. Texas A&M

NATIONAL RANK 240

Frontcourt: Coach Melvin Watkins went with a three-guard lineup last season because he didn't have much frontcourt depth. This season, the Aggies will play a three-forward lineup because Watkins recruited high-quality players. Aaron Jack and Paul Jacobs, backups last season, will start at forward. Juco transfer Carlton Brown, a prolific scorer who can rebound, should work quickly into the rotation. Larry Jackson, TCU transfer Brian Brookhart and Andy Slocum, all 6-10 or taller, will battle for time at center.

Backcourt: A&M sustained a huge blow when Clifton Cook, the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year last season, was declared academically ineligible in late June. Cook led A&M in scoring, assists and steals last season and was second in rebounding. He was second in the Big 12 in assists and steals and one of the top 3-point shooters. The Aggies will need big production from freshmen Bernard King, a sharp-shooting guard who was one of the top players in Louisiana, and Jamaal Gilchrist and sophomores Andy Leatherman and Damon Escoffery. Shelton Wise and Michael Schmidt, both contributors last season, are no longer on the team.

Key to success: Watkins told the Aggies that changes were in the works after a forgettable first season, and he kept his word. Only four players who played significantly last season are back. A&M has to develop chemistry early and quickly find a legitimate scoring threat, or another long season could be in store. A&M also needs to play better defense. When opponents have scored 80 or more points, the Aggies have lost 34 straight games.

Outlook: So many changes and no Cook could mean fewer than last year's 12 victories.

Aggies DATA

Coach: Melvin Watkins (12-15, 1 year; 54-35 overall, 3 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-15. Big 12: 5-11/T 10th.
Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: College Station, Texas.
Home court: Reed Arena (12,500).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
10	F	Jason Boeker	6-8	Sr.	0.3	0.9	0.2	25.0	50.0	—
42	C	Brian Brookhart	6-10	Fr.	Transferred from Texas Christian.					
24	F	Carlton Brown	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Temple (Texas) JC.					
52	G	Jerald Brown*	6-8	Sr.	5.9	3.6	0.9	35.7	76.9	35.1
3	G	Damon Escoffery	6-4	So.	Transferred from Monterey Peninsula (Calif.) CC.					
4	G	Jamaal Gilchrist	6-1	Fr.	16.8 ppg, 8.1 apg at Notre Dame Academy.					
21	F	Aaron Jack	6-8	Sr.	5.6	4.0	0.9	56.5	76.3	00.0
55	C	Larry Jackson	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted, coach's decision, in 1998-99.					
40	F	Paul Jacobs	6-9	Sr.	3.4	3.2	0.4	43.1	75.0	—
32	G	Bernard King	6-5	Fr.	Nationally ranked top-30 high school recruit.					
22	G	Andy Leatherman	6-3	So.	2.7	1.2	0.7	34.9	73.5	42.9
25	F	Larry Scott	6-6	Fr.	17.2 ppg, 8.1 rpg at St. James H.S.					
44	C	Andy Slocum	6-11	Fr.	Nationally ranked top-100 high school recruit.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	T.J. Brown	6-1	0.3	0.4	1.0	14.3	00.0	00.0
G	Chris Clayton*	6-3	8.7	2.3	1.7	36.9	72.4	32.1
G	Clifton Cook*	6-1	15.6	5.4	5.8	35.5	66.9	29.1
F	Shanne Jones*	6-5	14.3	6.0	0.9	53.9	62.9	25.0
G	Michael Schmidt	6-5	Transferred to Niagara.					
G	Shelton Wise	6-4	Transferred, school to be named.					
C	Joe White*	6-10	Transferred to Temple.					

Schedule

N27 North Carolina A&T
N29 at North Texas
D1 Stephen F. Austin
D5 Virginia Commonwealth
D8 at Tulane
D11 at Rice (Compaq Center)
D18 at Lamar
D21 at Dayton
D29-30 Cable Car Classic
J5 Centenary
J8 at Oklahoma
J12 Texas
J15 at Texas Tech
J17 Kansas
J22 Oklahoma State
J26 at Iowa State
J29 at Missouri
F2 Baylor
F5 at Oklahoma State
F12 Colorado
F16 at Baylor
F19 Texas Tech
F23 at Kansas State
F26 at Texas
M1 Oklahoma
M4 Nebraska

12. Baylor

NATIONAL RANK 244

Frontcourt: The team is excited about junior-college transfer Terry Black, who immediately becomes the Bears' best player. Black led Indian Hills (Iowa) JC to a national title as a freshman and was one of the top juco scorers in the country last season. He is a versatile forward who will have to play a lot inside to make up for Baylor's lack of a dominating post game. Jamie Kendrick, one of three returning starters, is the only other frontcourt player with experience. John Flippen, a 7-3 redshirt freshman, has added more than 20 pounds since arriving in Waco.

Backcourt: Baylor has depth at guard but no true leader, unless new coach Dave Bliss persuades Tevis Stukes to return. Stukes, a quick, high-scoring point guard, quit in early January but remained in school. DeMarcus Minor and Meechy Sims, junior-college transfers, will push Stukes. Leon Morris and Rodney Smith are returning starters. If he decides to return, Smith, a linebacker on the football team, will not be available until mid-November.

Key to success: Winning early and instilling confidence in a team that went 0-16 against conference foes is a must. Bliss likes to play an up-tempo style. To do that, he has to find someone who can shoot. Baylor shot less than 34 percent from the field last season and 28.8 percent from three-point range.

Outlook: Black could emerge as one of the top players in the South. If he and Kendrick show improvement and if chemistry develops on a team that has seven new scholarship players, Baylor will give teams problems. Bliss will have the Bears in the top half of the conference—just not this year.

Bears DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Dave Bliss (first year; 465-271 overall, 24 years; 8-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 6-24. Big 12: 0-16/12th.
Last league title: 1950 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Waco, Texas.
Home court: Ferrell Center (10,284).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	G	Austin Allen	6-0	So.	1.5	1.5	2.0	22.0	60.0	00.0
31	F	Terry Black	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Indian Hills (Iowa) JC.					
55	C	Ben Echols	6-11	Sr.	2.2	2.4	0.1	43.3	60.0	00.0
54	C	Josh Faltesek	6-8	Fr.	Should provide strength down low.					
41	C	John Flippen	7-3	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99 season.					
20	G	Wendell Greenleaf	6-3	Fr.	Explosive player who can penetrate.					
10	G	David Jones	6-6	Sr.	2.8	1.2	0.5	25.0	57.9	20.9
21	F	Jamie Kendrick*	6-8	Sr.	9.8	6.0	1.1	39.8	69.7	40.3
23	G	DeMarcus Minor	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from Barton County (Kan.) CC.					
25	G	Leon Morris*	6-6	Sr.	7.8	4.5	1.5	32.4	72.9	30.0
33	F	Charlie Naihe	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from San Jacinto (Texas) JC.					
52	C	Steve Othoro	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99 season.					
14	G	Meechy Sims	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from McLennan (Texas) CC.					
	G	Rodney Smith*	6-0	Sr.	6.2	2.2	1.1	36.8	69.6	30.8
3	G	Tevis Stukes*	5-11	Sr.	17.8	1.7	2.2	35.7	78.2	35.2
24	G	Rob Thomas	6-5	So.	1.0	1.0	0.0	50.0	00.0	00.0
33	G	Robert Thornton	6-4	So.	2.6	1.5	0.5	32.9	45.5	25.0

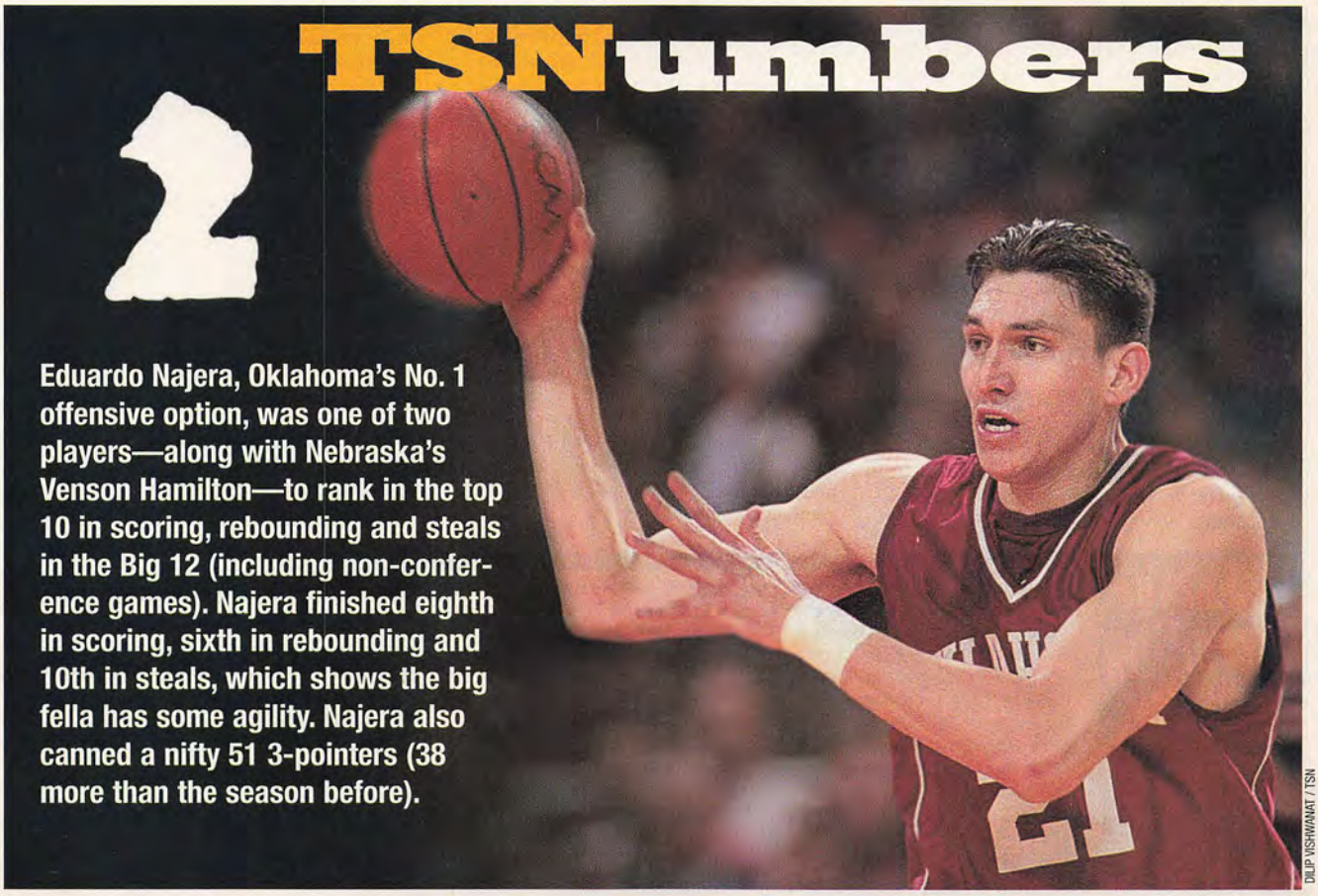
LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Kish Lewis*	6-7	14.3	8.9	1.0	44.6	66.9	23.1
F	Gabe Ramirez	6-7	4.2	2.5	0.3	39.7	61.5	23.6
G	B.J. Sellers	6-3	5.8	1.1	2.4	41.1	68.4	27.3

Schedule

N20	Eastern Washington	D11	Marquette	J15	Oklahoma State	F12	at Texas Tech
N24	North Carolina A&T	D18	at Jacksonville	J18	Missouri	F16	Texas A&M
N27	McNeese State	D21	North Texas	J22	at Nebraska	F19	Texas
N30	Alaska-Fairbanks	D28	Southern	J26	Texas Tech	F23	at Colorado
D4	Creighton	D31	Ark.-Pine Bluff	J30	at Oklahoma State	F26	at Kansas
D7	Sam Houston State	J6	at Texas	F2	at Texas A&M	M1	Kansas State
		J11	at Oklahoma	F5	Oklahoma	M4	Iowa State

TSNumbers



Eduardo Najera, Oklahoma's No. 1 offensive option, was one of two players—along with Nebraska's Venson Hamilton—to rank in the top 10 in scoring, rebounding and steals in the Big 12 (including non-conference games). Najera finished eighth in scoring, sixth in rebounding and 10th in steals, which shows the big fella has some agility. Najera also canned a nifty 51 3-pointers (38 more than the season before).

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Inside dish

Big East

RANK 5

ASCENDING: Georgetown. Those who thought the Hoyas would permanently fall from contention when John Thompson resigned are about to learn otherwise. Coach Craig Esherick has some fine young talent, led by Kevin Braswell and Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, as well as the top recruiting class in the conference. Remember all those close losses last season? The Hoyas are about to convert those into victories.

THE BIG EAST

DESCENDING: Providence. Give coach Tim Welsh enormous credit for keeping the Friars in the middle of the pack last season. Jamel Thomas had little talent around him, yet the Friars fought hard until they just didn't have any more to give. The task gets even tougher this season. Welsh has brought in an eight-man recruiting class. That's a lot of new faces.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: St. John's Ron Artest. Artest was a happy man on the night of the NBA draft, and you couldn't blame him. He did what was best for him. He's ready for the pros. But St. John's and the Big East got shortchanged. This guy was fun to watch. Artest had the total package. And the pressure is on Anthony Glover to take Artest's place. Tough spot for Glover.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Miami's Mario Bland. While Tim James and Johnny Hemsley got credit for all the pretty stuff, Bland was toiling inside, taking up space and doing the dirty work for the Hurricanes. Bland had six double-doubles last season. If you don't think opponents notice Bland, just ask UConn coach Jim Calhoun. Bland had 37 points and 16 rebounds against the Huskies in two regular-season games.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Seton Hall's Shaheen Holloway. Yes, he's a good player, but he hasn't lived up to the lofty expectations. Maybe they were too high. Maybe he tried to do too much. Maybe he has been tired and injured. Still, it seemed he would be better, especially after Tommy Amaker became his coach. Holloway's points and assists were way down last season. At times at the end of the season, the Pirates seemed better off with Ty Shine at point guard. With more experience and talent around him, Holloway needs to have a satisfying senior season to improve his reputation.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: West Virginia's Gale Catlett. Sure, he has more than 500 wins, and he has been at the school for 21 years. But Catlett, who had his worst record in 27 years of coaching last season, isn't exactly reacting well to the Big East. This figures to be the second consecutive season the Mountaineers aren't competitive in the conference, and the recent recruiting classes have been worse than the record.

BEST BETS: Speculation will continue that Miami is about to leave the Big East and join the Atlantic Coast Conference. ... Khalid El-Amin will skip his senior season at UConn and enter the NBA draft. ... Villanova fans will spend the season talking about what a difference Kentucky transfer Michael Bradley will make in 2000-01. ... Dean Smith and Roy Williams will say a lot of nice things about Notre Dame rookie coach Matt Doherty. ... Coaches will sing the praises of the new 16-game regular-season conference schedule.

ODDS AND ENDS: The coaches aren't happy with the decision, but look for Virginia Tech to become a full member of the Big East in 2000-01. When Tech joins the basketball conference, the Big East is expected to split into two divisions again. ... Former Georgetown coach Thompson has joined Lou Carnesecca of St. John's as the second conference coach to be elected to the Hall of Fame. ... Georgetown will welcome a couple of football players, Gharun Hestor and Trenton Hillier, to its roster at the end of the gridiron season.

By Ken Davis *Hartford Courant*

Predictions

1. Connecticut
2. St. John's
3. Miami
4. Syracuse
5. Georgetown
6. Notre Dame
7. Rutgers
8. Villanova
9. Seton Hall
10. Boston College
11. West Virginia
12. Providence
13. Pittsburgh

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Khalid El-Amin, Connecticut	5-10	203	Jr.
G/F	Johnny Hemsley, Miami	6-5	195	Sr.
C	Etan Thomas, Syracuse	6-9	247	Sr.
F	Kevin Freeman, Connecticut	6-7	235	Sr.
F	Troy Murphy, Notre Dame	6-9	225	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Erick Barkley, St. John's	6-1	185	So.
G	Bootsy Thornton, St. John's	6-4	195	Sr.
C	Jake Voskuhl, Connecticut	6-11	245	Sr.
F	Ruben Boumtje Boumtje, G'town	6-11	245	Jr.
F	Marcus Goree, West Virginia	6-8	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Khalid El-Amin, G, Connecticut

Newcomer of the Year

Ajou Ajou Deng, F, Connecticut

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Bootsy Thornton, St. John's
Best rebounder: Troy Murphy, Notre Dame
Best playmaker: Erick Barkley, St. John's
Best defender: Etan Thomas, Syracuse
Best leaper: Marcus Goree, West Virginia
Most versatile: Brian Ross, Boston College
Most flamboyant: Khalid El-Amin, Connecticut
Best NBA prospect: Johnny Hemsley, Miami

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Georgetown: Lee Scruggs is a good passer, shot blocker and rebounder.
2. UConn: Marcus Cox reads defenses well and can play both guard spots.
3. Notre Dame: Irish add two-time AP Player of the Year Matt Carroll.
4. Providence: Karim Shabazz will bring rebounding and shot blocking.
5. Seton Hall: Samuel Dalembert adds much-needed size down low.
6. Miami: Leroy Hurd can play all three perimeter positions.
7. Villanova: Team gets long-range shooting guard with Gary Buchanan.
8. Rutgers: Josh Moore is an imposing physical presence at 7-0, 280.
9. Syracuse: Defensive force Jeremy McNeil enjoys physical play.
10. Pittsburgh: Tenacious defender in Brandin Knight.
11. Boston College: Troy Bell will be an impact player at the point.
12. West Virginia: Tim Lyles, who has great court vision, could start.
13. St. John's: Jack Wolfinger is a big man with a shooting touch.

More on the Big East at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. Connecticut

NATIONAL RANK 3

Schedule

N11-12	IKON Classic
N19	Vermont
N22	Massachusetts
N29	Coppin State
D4	North Carolina-Asheville
D7	Great Eight
D12	Fordham
D23	Fairfield
D30	at Houston
J3	Sacred Heart
J5	Notre Dame
J8	at Pittsburgh
J10	Texas
J16	St. John's
J22	at Georgetown
J24	at Syracuse
J27	Providence
J30	Seton Hall
F2	at Villanova
F5	at Michigan State
F9	Boston College
F12	at Notre Dame
F14	at Seton Hall
F19	Miami
F21	at St. John's
F26	West Virginia
F28	at Rutgers
M4	Syracuse

Frontcourt: There are so many tall players wandering around the Connecticut campus, it seems as if coach Jim Calhoun has started his own camp for big men. Look at the roster: Four players are 6-11 or taller. This is not your typical UConn team. Or is it? The Huskies may be bigger, but Calhoun continues to find pivot men with wing talents. And that's what makes the Huskies so hard to play. Center Jake Voskuhl, who has become Calhoun's answer to a hockey goalie with his terrific defense in the post, is back for his senior season. And no one had a better '99 postseason than senior forward Kevin Freeman. After the Big East coaches overlooked his talents when handing out regular-season awards, Freeman dominated the conference tournament and was a consistent force in the NCAAs. Although the Huskies will miss the scoring and clutch shooting of Richard Hamilton at small forward, there are endless options available to Calhoun that should make this team very unusual. Ajou Ajou Deng, a 6-11 forward who Calhoun thinks has the potential to be the greatest player in UConn history, should dazzle opponents on the wing. When Voskuhl gets in foul trouble, Calhoun can turn to senior Souleymane Wane or 7-footer Justin Brown. Edmund Saunders was a key contributor to the national championship drive in his first season. Doug Wrenn is a freshman swingman who brings even more depth to the perimeter game.

Backcourt: The show belongs to point guard Khalid El-Amin. He was tempted to leave for the NBA and probably will choose that path after this, his junior season. But for now, he has a lot to prove. El-Amin loves the spotlight, but he had some bad performances in big games. He must make prudent decisions, must know when to pass and when to shoot. And he must stay in shape. The Huskies don't have anyone to match the defensive intensity and leadership of Ricky Moore, canonized by Calhoun as his best defensive player ever, but Albert Mouring made some surprising contributions in the second half of the season. He is capable of picking up some of the offensive slack left by Hamilton. Two freshmen, Marcus Cox and Tony Robertson, will get their chance to contribute. Cox has a total game, can be used at either position and probably will spell El-Amin at the point. Robertson is an explosive scorer who can slash to the basket.

Key to success: El-Amin must emerge as a consistent leader. The spotlight will be on him now that Hamilton and Moore are gone. It's important for El-Amin to put team goals ahead of individual success, but still have a breakout season offensively. The other important step is finding the best way to integrate Deng into the system. Deng can help the Huskies in a variety of ways, but he must accept his role, even as it changes. And the veteran Huskies must accept him as a player with star potential.

Outlook: Don't expect the Huskies to drop out of national championship contention just because Hamilton and Moore have departed. With three starters back and a crop of new talent, UConn easily remains the class of the Big East and has the most potential to reach the Final Four. In fact, the way Calhoun continues to build this program, the Huskies could become Final Four regulars after waiting so long to reach the promised land for the first time. But a title repeat is too much to ask.



TSN

When it really counts: *Freeman's play went largely unheralded during the regular season, but he grabbed the spotlight on the way to the national championship.*

Huskies DATA

Coach: Jim Calhoun (304-120, 13 years; 554-257 overall, 27 years; 25-12 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1999).
1998-99 record: 34-2. Big East: 16-2/1st. Beat Duke in NCAA final.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Storrs, Conn. **Home court:** Hartford Civic Center (16,294); Gampel Pavilion (10,027).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
5	G/F	Beau Archibald	6-6	Jr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
20	C	Justin Brown	7-0	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
50	G	Marcus Cox	6-4	Fr.	Could fill role as a "big" point guard.					
4	F	Ajou Ajou Deng	6-11	So.	Practiced with team last season but did not play.					
42	G	Khalid El-Amin*	5-10	Jr.	13.8	2.8	3.9	41.2	77.8	33.8
33	F	Kevin Freeman*	6-7	Sr.	12.2	7.3	0.8	58.8	71.3	00.0
23	G	Albert Mouring	6-3	Jr.	7.1	2.5	1.1	43.9	74.5	37.6
32	G	Tony Robertson	6-3	Fr.	Muscular combo guard with good quickness.					
51	F	Edmund Saunders	6-8	Jr.	6.0	4.7	0.7	56.2	60.3	100.0
43	C	Jake Voskuhl*	6-11	Sr.	5.5	6.4	1.1	51.2	62.1	—
34	C/F	Souleymane Wane	6-11	Sr.	2.0	2.8	0.4	38.5	42.3	—
55	G/F	Doug Wrenn	6-6	Fr.	Outstanding leaper with good offensive skills.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/G	Richard Hamilton*	6-6	21.5	4.8	2.7	44.3	83.3	34.7
G	E.J. Harrison	6-1	1.9	0.8	0.8	45.5	60.0	33.3
G/F	Rashamel Jones	6-5	3.5	1.7	0.8	51.6	62.1	11.1
F	Antric Klaiber	6-10	0.7	1.0	0.1	29.4	62.5	00.0
G	Ricky Moore*	6-2	6.8	3.6	3.6	42.3	81.4	35.3

2. St. John's

NATIONAL RANK 16

Schedule

N19-20	CoSIDA Classic
N23	at Stony Brook
D1	Coppin State
D4	Virginia
D8	St. Francis (N.Y.)
D11	at Niagara
D14	at DePaul
D22	Hofstra
D29	Sacred Heart
J3	Pittsburgh
J8	at West Virginia
J10	Georgetown
J16	at Connecticut
J18	at Seton Hall
J22	Ohio State
J25	Rutgers
J29	at Notre Dame
J31	at Syracuse
F12	Villanova
F5	Boston College
F8	at Providence
F12	Villanova
F19	Syracuse
F21	Connecticut
F26	at Duke
F29	Seton Hall
M5	at Miami

Frontcourt: Coach Mike Jarvis made a special trip to the Empire State Games in July just to watch Anthony Glover play a game. Jarvis took his wife, Connie, to add to the warm and fuzzy feeling of family. Guard Erick Barkley was Glover's teammate in the game. It was the first game in a competitive atmosphere in more than a year for Glover, who missed his freshman season at St. John's because of academics. But the Red Storm are ready to welcome Glover with open arms. The 6-6, 225-pound forward from the Bronx becomes especially important as St. John's rebuilds after the loss of two key frontcourt players in Ron Artest and Tyrone Grant. Grant was injured in midseason last year, and the Red Storm compensated. But Artest, probably the most versatile player in the conference, will be harder for the Red Storm to replace. Artest could have accomplished much more at St. John's, but few could blame him for leaving early for the NBA. Glover has a similar passion for the game and can't wait to begin his college career. St. John's fans must be patient. Glover isn't likely to be the next Artest immediately. Reggie Jessie and Lavor Postell, who started 13 and 12 games, respectively, for Jarvis last season are back after a season of valuable contributions. Sophomore Donald Emanuel and freshman Jack Wolfinger provide depth for the Red Storm. This unit doesn't have much height, and it will need to use its athleticism to fight for rebounding position.

Backcourt: No concern for Jarvis here. He knows Barkley and Marvis "Bootsy" Thornton are back to handle the starting duties. Barkley gave St. John's its steadiest point guard play in several seasons. He was a unanimous Big East All-Rookie team selection and led the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio as a freshman (175 assists/77 turnovers). Thornton, an unheralded and unnoticed transfer from Tallahassee, Fla., erupted on the scene and was a second-team all-conference selection after finishing among the top 10 scorers in the league. His amazing shooting percentage from the perimeter and his ability to score quickly give St. John's one of the most potent offensive weapons in the conference. Chudney Gray, back for his senior season, filled in admirably at times. Kareem Syed also is in his final season. But this is clearly a Barkley and Thornton show.

Key to success: There is a lot of pressure on Glover to step in quickly and get the job done. That's not going to be easy, especially as he tries to get back into playing shape. Jarvis also has a short roster, so avoiding injuries will be extremely important.

Outlook: Excitement has returned to the program and Madison Square Garden under Jarvis' leadership. This won't be a down year, but the Red Storm are caught between last season's amazing NCAA Tournament run and a bright future that will be enhanced by successful recruiting from the talent-rich New York City area. If the Red Storm learn how to win close games at home, the energy level will reach a boiling point.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

No worries: *One thing coach Jarvis doesn't have to worry about is Thornton (left) in the St. John's backcourt. Thornton was in the top 10 in the league in scoring.*

Red Storm DATA

Coach: Mike Jarvis (28-9, 1 year; 281-150 overall, 14 years; 6-7 NCAA Tourn. record).
1998-99 record: 28-9. Big East: 14-4/3rd. Lost to Ohio State in NCAA South regional final.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Jamaica, N.Y.
Home court: Alumni Hall (6,008); Madison

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Erick Barkley*	6-1	So.	13.5	3.2	4.7	39.5	77.2	34.3
33	F	Donald Emanuel	6-8	So.	1.7	2.2	0.2	44.7	44.0	—
	F	Anthony Glover	6-6	So.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
3	G	Chudney Gray	6-3	Sr.	3.7	1.4	1.3	42.2	65.6	30.3
41	G/F	Reggie Jessie	6-7	Jr.	5.6	4.3	2.2	42.7	64.3	10.0
	G	Heath Orvis	6-0	Fr.	Go east, young man—Colorado player does.					
25	F	Lavor Postell*	6-6	Sr.	13.1	6.4	0.9	44.4	79.4	41.4
10	G	Kareem Syed	6-5	Sr.	0.5	0.2	0.1	33.3	—	00.0
14	G	Bootsy Thornton*	6-4	Sr.	14.9	4.5	1.8	50.0	64.6	38.1
	F	Jack Wolfinger	6-11	Fr.	Has enough talent to play on the perimeter.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Ron Artest*	6-6	14.5	6.3	4.2	46.9	64.4	37.4
F/C	Tyrone Grant*	6-7	10.5	8.6	0.9	59.1	58.8	00.0
G	Collin Charles	5-11	Transferred to Quinnipiac.					
F	Albert Richardson	6-9	2.1	2.2	0.1	37.2	43.6	00.0

3. Miami

NATIONAL RANK 25

Schedule

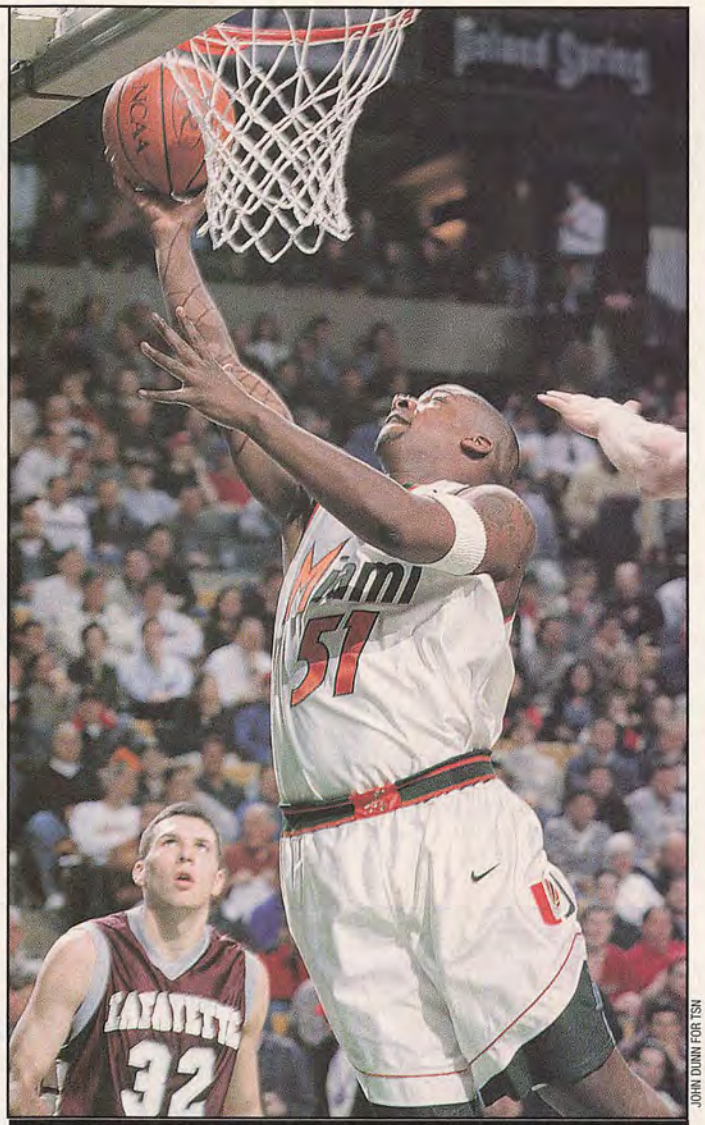
N19	at Central Florida
N23	Monmouth
N30	Bethune-Cookman
D4	at Memphis
D7	UNC-Charlotte
D11	Hartford
D18	at North Carolina
D20-22	San Juan Shootout
D27	Florida Atlantic
D29	Quinnipiac
J5	West Virginia
J8	Syracuse
J11	at Seton Hall
J15	at Georgetown
J17	at Villanova
J22	Boston College
J25	at Notre Dame
J29	Kentucky
F1	Pittsburgh
F5	at Rutgers
F7	Georgetown
F16	Providence
F19	at Connecticut
F22	at West Virginia
F26	Notre Dame
F29	at Pittsburgh
M5	St. John's

Frontcourt: When a player of Tim James' caliber leaves, the loss is hard to replace. Now the Hurricanes must try to sustain that winning spirit without James. He flourished during his senior season and shared top honors with Connecticut's Richard Hamilton as Conference Player of the Year. James will be missed on both ends of the floor, and it will be very difficult for one player to replace his 18.7 points, 8.2 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots per game. However, Johnny Hemsley has emerged as one of the top players in the Big East. In fact, Hemsley's presence enabled James to enjoy success in 1998-99. Hemsley must bear the burden of being the top offensive threat. Last season, he improved in almost every category—scoring, rebounding, assists, steals, blocked shots and field-goal percentage. Elton Tyler, a junior who averaged 12 minutes last season, probably will replace James in the starting lineup. Tyler won't be expected to produce the same results, but he must find a way to draw some attention from Hemsley. The rest of the frontcourt includes center Mario Bland and freshmen Leroy Hurd and James Jones. Bland, who consumes enormous space in the lane, led the Big East in field-goal percentage two years ago. He will be expected to increase his production. Hurd was a Mississippi first-team all-state selection as a high school senior, averaging 15 points and eight rebounds per game. Jones could become a force in the low post. He led Miami-Dade County in scoring (25.2 points per game) while averaging more than 10 rebounds per game.

Backcourt: The Hurricanes entered last season with a big question mark at point guard. Junior Vernon Jennings averaged 5.2 points per game but won the Big East assists title. Jennings broke the single-season school record with 167 assists, but this isn't a program known for its point guards, and uncertainty remains over Jennings' leadership ability. Miami's NCAA run ended prematurely in a second-round loss to Purdue when the Hurricanes needed leadership at the point and didn't get it. Sophomore Joao Paulo Coelho is the top reserve at the position. Off-guard John Salmons moved into the starting lineup at the midway point last season and averaged 5.6 points. Salmons should provide more offensive punch as he becomes more comfortable in his role.

Key to success: Again, point guard play will be vital to the Hurricanes. Jennings must distribute the ball, but he also needs to provide leadership, especially with James gone. And now that the program has achieved some success, it's time to start playing up to that standard. The Hurricanes should have advanced beyond the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The loss to Purdue was a disappointment that should serve as motivation throughout this season.

Outlook: Leonard Hamilton's team will have one of the toughest schedules in the conference. The Hurricanes will play Kentucky, North Carolina, UNC-Charlotte and Memphis and participate in the San Juan Shootout. Hamilton hopes that will prepare Miami for a longer stay in the NCAA Tournament. The Hurricanes must believe they can win a championship this season.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Give us more: *Bland will assume much of the responsibility inside and will be asked to increase his scoring from just over 11 points a game.*

Hurricanes DATA

Coach: Leonard Hamilton (121-136, 9 years; 177-199 overall, 13 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-7. Big East: 15-3/2nd. Lost to Purdue in NCAA East second round.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Coral Gables, Fla.

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
51	F	Mario Bland*	6-6	Sr.	11.2	6.0	1.2	59.0	65.3	54.5
13	G	Joao Paulo Coelho	6-2	So.	1.0	0.3	0.8	31.2	77.8	23.1
31	G/F	Johnny Hemsley*	6-5	Sr.	17.8	4.7	2.3	44.9	78.4	40.0
00	G/F	Leroy Hurd	6-7	Fr.	First-team all-state in Mississippi last year.					
30	G/F	Vernon Jennings*	6-4	Sr.	5.2	2.8	5.6	39.7	75.0	20.0
33	F	James Jones	6-8	Fr.	6A Player of the Year in Florida last season.					
45	F	John Salmons*	6-7	So.	5.6	4.9	2.0	48.0	72.5	24.4
11	F	Jerry Schlie	6-6	Jr.	0.8	0.5	0.1	21.4	75.0	25.0
3	G	Michael Simmons	6-0	So.	2.7	1.2	2.2	35.5	69.7	26.9
25	F	Elton Tyler	6-9	Jr.	3.7	2.4	0.5	58.4	52.6	—
34	F	Dwayne Wimbley	6-9	Jr.	2.4	1.9	0.1	52.8	48.1	—

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Mike Byars-Dawson	5-10	3.0	1.3	0.5	36.4	50.0	16.7
C	Nick Donovan	7-0	0.7	1.0	0.3	33.3	—	00.0
G	Kevin Houston	6-4	Transferred.					
F	Tim James*	6-7	18.7	8.2	0.8	47.7	69.7	29.3

4. Syracuse

NATIONAL RANK 27

Frontcourt: The starting spots are in the capable hands of Ryan Blackwell, Damone Brown and Etan Thomas. Last season, Thomas emerged as one of the most powerful forces in the conference, blocking four shots a game and earning honors as Defensive Player of the Year. Blackwell, a forward, saw his scoring and rebounding averages drop off slightly from his first season, but he still is one of the best shooters on the team and led the squad in rebounds per game. Brown moved into the starting lineup in the eighth game of last season and never left.

Backcourt: Again, Syracuse's outlook depends largely on point guard Jason Hart. When he plays well, the Orangemen function like a perfect instrument. When Hart struggles, the Orangemen also have difficulties. His scoring was up last season, but his assists were down.

Key to success: Hart, Blackwell and Thomas should be motivated to end their careers on a positive note. And that means not being satisfied with a 21-win season. It would be a tremendous lift if newcomers Kueth Duany and DeShaun Williams could provide scoring in the backcourt.

Outlook: With five starters back, Syracuse fans should be dreaming of an Orange Christmas. But this group underachieved last season. Winning 21 games, then losing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament isn't enough for fans in upstate New York. If the veterans don't start producing by midseason, look for coach Jim Boeheim to turn the show over to the newcomers. The bottom line is, a team with this starting lineup should go deep into the postseason.

Orangemen DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jim Boeheim (549-193, 23 years; 29-19 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-12. Big East: 10-8/T4th. Lost to Oklahoma State in NCAA South first round.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Home court: Carrier Dome (33,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	F	Ryan Blackwell*	6-8	Sr.	11.7	7.8	2.6	44.3	72.3	34.0
4	G	Tony Bland	6-4	So.	4.4	1.4	1.6	42.7	60.0	30.0
25	F	Damone Brown*	6-8	Jr.	9.5	5.5	0.8	50.0	75.0	22.8
35	C	Billy Celuck	7-0	Jr.	2.9	1.7	0.3	58.8	75.0	—
13	G/F	Kueth Duany	6-5	So.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
12	G	Allen Griffin*	6-0	Jr.	7.9	2.7	3.2	38.7	67.1	34.7
5	G	Jason Hart*	6-3	Sr.	13.9	3.0	4.3	41.0	74.0	36.6
	F	Mark McCarroll	6-10	Fr.	Can play small or power, but needs work.					
15	G	Robert McClanaghan	6-1	Jr.	0.5	0.2	0.3	14.3	—	20.0
	F	Jeremy McNeil	6-9	Fr.	Expected to contribute in freshman year.					
23	F	Christopher Schau	6-8	Jr.	0.0	0.5	0.0	00.0	—	—
3	G	Preston Shumpert	6-6	So.	5.4	2.4	0.6	39.9	73.0	29.0
33	C/F	Etan Thomas*	6-9	Sr.	12.3	7.4	0.5	61.7	57.4	—
	G	DeShaun Williams	6-3	Fr.	It's hoped he can provide some outside shooting.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Malik Campbell	6-3	2.9	1.1	1.0	34.5	37.5	31.6
C	Elvir Ovcina	6-11	2.8	3.1	1.8	31.6	52.9	19.2
F	Eric Williams	6-9	Transferred to Massachusetts.					

Schedule

N12-13 NABC Classic	J5 Rutgers	J29 at Boston College	F27 Georgetown
N22 Florida Atlantic	J8 at Miami	J31 St. John's	M1 at Notre Dame
N29 Colgate	J11 at West Virginia	F5 at Providence	M4 at Connecticut
D3-4 Carrier Classic	J13 at South Carolina	F10 at Louisville	
D7 Albany	J16 Notre Dame	F13 UCLA	
D22 La Salle	J19 at Pittsburgh	F16 Pittsburgh	
D29 Hartford	J22 Seton Hall	F19 at St. John's	
	J24 Connecticut	F23 Villanova	

5. Georgetown

NATIONAL RANK 32

Frontcourt: Center Ruben Boumtje Boumtje made progress during the last half of the season, finishing with five double-doubles and offering some hope. He blocked 89 shots and showed flashes of outstanding offense. With center Jameel Watkins also returning and junior swingman Nat Burton gaining confidence in the final half of the season, the Hoyas have some valuable frontcourt experience. Co-captain Rhese Gibson provided rebounding and solid defense off the bench last season.

Backcourt: Georgetown's traditional defense is based on pesky, athletic guards, and the Hoyas are loaded again. Leading the way will be the starting tandem of Anthony Perry and Kevin Braswell, the top two scorers on the team last season. Georgetown's recruiting class also promises depth in the backcourt, with Raynardo Curry at the point and Demetrius Hunter helping out on defense.

Key to success: Craig Esherick's coaching ability will be put to the test again. He was put in a tough situation last season when John Thompson resigned in early January. This time, Esherick must blend a talented group of veterans with the top recruiting class in the conference. Esherick has the depth to return to Georgetown's pressure defense. If the Hoyas do that, they can be a factor in the conference standings.

Outlook: It's still odd to look at the Georgetown bench and not see John Thompson pacing with his white towel. But Thompson is gone, and he took some of the Hoyas mystique with him. Thompson didn't leave the cupboard bare. With the backcourt tandem of Perry and Braswell, Georgetown should be able to control the tempo against most opponents.

Hoyas DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Craig Esherick (8-10, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 15-16. Big East: 6-12/10th. Lost to Princeton in NIT 1st round.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Washington, D.C.
Home court: MCI Center (20,260).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	C	R. Boumtje Boumtje*	6-11	Jr.	8.5	7.0	1.1	46.5	54.9	00.0
12	G	Kevin Braswell*	6-2	So.	13.5	4.2	4.5	33.5	75.4	31.5
23	G/F	Jason Burns	6-5	Fr.	Good shooter with solid ballhandling skills.					
25	G/F	Nat Burton*	6-4	Jr.	11.4	4.9	0.8	45.7	64.7	27.3
3	G	Raynardo Curry	6-0	Fr.	Probably the best ballhandler the Hoyas have.					
21	F	Courtland Freeman	6-9	Fr.	Good size and ability to hit from the perimeter.					
32	F	Rhese Gibson	6-7	Sr.	1.1	1.9	0.2	34.9	50.0	—
10	G/F	Gharun Hester	6-4	Jr.	0.8	0.4	0.0	50.0	—	00.0
11	G	Trenton Hillier	5-9	Fr.	Football WR/K will add depth at point guard.					
1	G	Demetrius Hunter	6-1	Fr.	Great athlete; more of a scorer than a shooter.					
5	G	Anthony Perry*	6-3	Jr.	14.0	4.7	2.1	33.8	63.1	33.2
13	F	Victor Samnick	6-8	Fr.	Cameroon native still learning the U.S. game.					
45	C	Lee Scruggs	6-10	Jr.	Excellent shot blocker and exceptional passer.					
40	C	Jameel Watkins*	6-10	Sr.	7.8	7.2	0.6	47.3	71.0	00.0
50	C	Wesley Wilson	6-11	Fr.	One of top 10 HS centers in nation last year.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Dean Berry	5-10	1.3	0.3	0.7	28.6	25.0	15.0
G/F	Daymond Jackson	6-4	4.5	3.5	0.7	40.2	55.9	—
F	Trez Kilpatrick	6-6	5.3	3.8	0.9	36.8	65.6	31.8
F	Willie Taylor	6-5	3.5	1.2	0.2	41.2	76.2	40.0
G	Joseph Touomou	6-2	0.8	0.5	0.7	31.8	87.5	25.0

Schedule

J5 at Providence	J22 Connecticut	F22 at Rutgers	Non-conference schedule unavailable at press time.
J8 Seton Hall	J29 Rutgers	F27 at Syracuse	
J10 at St. John's	F5 Villanova	M1 West Virginia	
J15 Miami (Fla.)	F7 at Miami (Fla.)	M4 Notre Dame	
J18 Boston College	F13 at Pittsburgh	at West Virginia/Date: TBA	
	F20 Pittsburgh		

6. Notre Dame

NATIONAL RANK 60

Frontcourt: Troy Murphy made such an impression last season that there was a groundswell of support to name the Fighting Irish freshman Big East Player of the Year. Richard Hamilton and Tim James eventually won the honor, but Murphy was named Rookie of the Year. There was no argument Murphy was the best freshman. In fact, he had one of the finest freshman seasons in Big East history, leading the conference in rebounding and field-goal percentage. There is every reason to believe he will improve this season. Murphy's accomplishments overshadowed the play of David Graves and Harold Swanagan, two freshman forwards with tremendous promise.

Backcourt: Point guard Martin Ingelsby did not have a sensational sophomore season, but he averaged one turnover every 11.2 minutes. Senior Jimmy Dillon provides depth at the point, but the off-guard position is wide open. Freshmen Matt Carroll and Mike Monserez are expected to battle for playing time.

Key to success: New coach Matt Doherty needs to find a replacement for center Phil Hickey. Ivan Kartelo, a 6-11 freshman from Croatia, will be given every opportunity. However, Doherty could take a smaller approach by playing one of his talented forwards at the position.

Outlook: Doherty brings optimism to the Fighting Irish—and that has been missing for a long time. It was a matter of time before Doherty landed his first head coaching job after seven seasons as the top assistant at Kansas. Put that together with his playing experience at North Carolina, and you have a coach with a winning background.

Fighting Irish DATA

Coach: Matt Doherty (first year).
1998-99 record: 14-16. Big East: 8-10/T8th.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: South Bend, Ind.
Home court: Joyce Center (11,418).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Matt Carroll	6-6	Fr.	Two-time AP player of the year in Pennsylvania.					
21	G	Jimmy Dillon	6-2	Sr.	2.8	1.3	2.8	40.0	54.5	21.4
34	F	David Graves*	6-5	So.	12.3	3.9	2.5	47.5	77.7	40.7
24	G	Martin Ingelsby*	5-11	Jr.	8.2	1.9	4.2	39.9	86.4	40.4
	C	Ivan Kartelo	6-11	Fr.	Can run, block shots and rebound. Good hands.					
	F	Jere Macura	6-8	Fr.	Wing-type player who can run and jump.					
	G	Mike Monserez	6-5	Fr.	Was MVP of '99 Ohio high school tournament.					
3	F	Troy Murphy*	6-9	So.	19.2	9.9	1.4	53.8	74.1	30.8
34	F	Skylard Owens	6-4	Sr.	2.0	1.9	0.3	67.6	56.0	—
44	F	Todd Palmer	6-6	So.	1.8	1.3	0.4	43.3	68.4	50.0
42	F	Harold Swanagan	6-6	So.	6.1	3.8	0.5	64.5	56.9	—
	F	Tim Szatko	6-7	Fr.	Walk-on who will try to earn a roster spot.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Phil Hickey*	6-10	9.1	6.6	1.1	44.7	57.9	00.0
F	Hans Rasmussen	6-9	0.4	0.8	0.6	50.0	—	—
F	Leviticus Williamson	6-6	1.4	0.9	0.1	50.0	80.0	00.0
G	Antoni Wyche*	6-4	11.2	2.5	3.1	41.5	75.0	26.6

Schedule

N16 at Ohio State*
N21 St. Francis (Pa.)
N30 at Indiana
D4 Vanderbilt
D8 Valparaiso
D11 at Miami (Ohio)
D18 VMI
D22 Rider
D28 Elon
D31 St. Peter's
J2 Loyola Marymount
J5 at Connecticut
J12 Boston College
J16 at Syracuse
J18 at Rutgers
J22 Pittsburgh
J25 Miami (Fla.)
J29 St. John's
F2 West Virginia
F6 at Pittsburgh
F8 at Villanova
F12 Connecticut
F19 at Seton Hall
F23 Providence
F26 at Miami (Fla.)
M1 Syracuse
M4 at Georgetown
*Preseason NIT

7. Rutgers

NATIONAL RANK 69

Frontcourt: Sophomore Rashod Kent is back at center. Just try to move him out of the pivot. You might want to bring a forklift or some other form of help. Kent, who is 6-6 and weighs 265 pounds, will split his time between center and power forward. Regardless of where he is, his presence will be felt. It helps that he is a good shooter—66 percent from the field last season. Rob Hodgson, a third-team All-Big East pick, will be missed up front, but swingman Dahntay Jones, an All-Rookie selection, is back for his sophomore season.

Backcourt: The Billet torch is being passed from Geoff to Todd—and everyone thinks Rutgers is getting the best of that deal. Geoff Billet was a dependable guard who started four years, but his brother Todd is a point guard who is expected to take control of the team immediately. Junior Jeff Greer averaged 11.2 points a game last season. Senior Earl Johnson, whose production had dropped off since his freshman season, has decided to transfer to Iona.

Key to success: Coach Kevin Bannon will need patience with this team. But that's nothing new. With nine scholarship players in the freshman and sophomore classes, this is a young crew. Hodgson and Geoff Billet gave the youngsters a foundation with a 19-win season last year, which nearly got the Scarlet Knights into the NCAA Tournament.

Outlook: Bannon has done an excellent job with this program, in its fifth Big East season. His recruiting effort has been even better, and with time, this team could make some noise in the upper division. Right now, expect a few upsets.

Scarlet Knights DATA

Coach: Kevin Bannon (33-28, 2 years; 309-179 overall, 17 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 19-13. Big East: 9-9/T6th. Lost to Clemson in NIT second round.
Last league title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: New Brunswick, N.J.
Home court: Brown Athletic Center (8,500).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	F	Sean Axani	6-7	Fr.	Rugged 220-pounder has knack for rebounding.					
22	G	Todd Billet	6-0	Fr.	Expected to compete for starting job at point.					
5	F/C	Eugene Dabney	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
34	G	Luis Flores	6-2	Fr.	Averaged 35.6 ppg as NYC prep last year.					
15	G	Connor Fox	6-1	So.	0.2	0.1	0.2	00.0	50.0	00.0
25	G	Jeff Greer*	6-5	Jr.	11.2	4.5	2.6	41.5	71.6	32.0
31	G	Dahntay Jones*	6-5	So.	10.7	4.1	1.5	42.3	81.4	32.4
44	F/C	Rashod Kent*	6-6	So.	8.8	4.9	0.7	66.7	43.2	—
35	F	Ian Progin	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from West Chester.					
3	F	Joel Salvi	6-7	Sr.	4.6	3.8	0.4	47.2	75.4	00.0
50	C	Alvydas Tenys	6-11	Sr.	3.3	2.0	0.2	55.0	58.8	—
24	F	Mike Tompson	6-7	So.	Played one year at BYU before two-year mission.					
55	F/C	Kareem Wright	6-9	Fr.	Will add bulk (310 pounds) to front line.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Geoff Billet*	6-0	12.7	1.9	4.2	41.0	81.8	40.9
F	Billy Collins	6-7	Transferred to Boston University.					
F	Rob Hodgson*	6-7	12.8	5.6	2.1	45.7	79.7	40.6
G	Earl Johnson	6-0	Transferred to Iona.					
G	Brian Samuels	6-1	Transferred to Cheyney (Pa.)					

Schedule

N20 Rider
N22 Charleston
N26-28 Hoop & Quill Cls
D4 Maryland-Baltimore County
D8 at St. Joseph's
D12 Princeton
D18 Elon
D21 Jimmy V Classic
D27-28 ECAC Holiday
J5 at Syracuse
J12 Providence
J15 West Virginia
J18 Notre Dame
J23 Villanova
J25 at St. John's
J29 at Georgetown
F2 at Boston College
F5 Miami
F9 Seton Hall
F12 at Providence
F14 Albany
F20 at Villanova
F22 Georgetown
F26 at Pittsburgh
F28 Connecticut
M4 at West Virginia

8. Villanova

NATIONAL RANK 91

Frontcourt: Coach Steve Lappas enters the season with a pretty good idea of what to expect from his frontcourt players. Malik Allen came to the school with the potential to dominate Big East games in the paint. That might happen this season. After starting last season at power forward, Allen moved back to center in January and stayed there. He averaged 14.2 points per game after the move, a switch Lappas could afford after Brooks Sales improved his play at the 4-spot. Sales is a talented rebounder and shot blocker who began developing an offensive game. Swingman Brian Lynch rounds out the starting lineup and brings his three years of experience to the floor. Lynch has been a streaky shooter, but when he's hot, he can be one of the top perimeter players in the conference.

Backcourt: The departures of John Celestand and Howard Brown creates a major shakeup at the guard positions. Celestand and Brown rallied the Wildcats late last season, inspiring them to another NCAA appearance. Look for sophomore Bobby Smith to move into the point guard spot. He was Celestand's prime understudy, but Smith's minutes dwindled late in the season. Jermaine Medley will get time at both guard spots, and Gary Buchanan will be counted on for his long-range shooting.

Key to success: Lappas will be searching for the right backcourt combination. Medley and Smith must rise to the occasion.

Outlook: The Wildcats were a pleasant surprise last season, and Lappas has demonstrated he can keep the program in the conference title hunt. But it will be hard for Villanova to duplicate last year's run to the NCAA Tournament.

Wildcats DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve Lappas (136-84, 7 years; 192-146 overall, 11 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-11. Big East: 10-8/T4th. Lost to Mississippi in NCAA Midwest first round.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Pavilion (6,500); First Union Center (21,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	F	Malik Allen*	6-10	Sr.	11.2	6.3	1.0	56.4	79.4	—
55	G	Mike Bosl	6-1	Jr.	0.3	0.2	0.2	25.0	—	00.0
22	G	Gary Buchanan	6-3	Fr.	Long-range shooting could earn him minutes.					
50	F	T.J. Caouette	6-7	Sr.	5.0	2.9	0.7	40.9	84.1	31.7
40	F	Johnny Holley	6-6	So.	0.4	0.4	0.2	20.0	—	00.0
21	G	Brian Lynch*	6-6	Sr.	10.4	3.6	2.4	43.9	73.4	41.4
4	F	Aaron Matthews	6-6	Fr.	Powerful athlete who likes to go to the basket.					
10	G	Jermaine Medley	6-0	Jr.	6.0	1.0	1.3	37.5	80.0	33.9
32	F	Brooks Sales*	6-10	So.	5.1	5.1	0.7	49.6	78.3	00.0
3	G	Bobby Smith	6-2	So.	4.7	1.1	0.8	33.3	71.7	30.8
12	F	Andrew Sullivan	6-7	Fr.	Versatile enough to play guard or small forward.					
5	F	Ricky Wright	6-7	Fr.	Tough kid who likes to rebound.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Rafal Bigus	7-1	8.2	4.5	0.7	45.6	53.3	—
F	Howard Brown*	6-5	13.4	5.1	2.5	45.9	71.8	35.1
G	John Celestand*	6-3	14.9	3.1	4.4	43.7	79.8	38.3
F	Chris Lee	6-5	0.3	0.7	0.0	20.0	00.0	—
F	Simon Ogunlesi	6-10	2.9	3.9	0.1	29.6	50.0	—

Schedule

N23 Lafayette
N29 Fairleigh Dickinson
D6 at Massachusetts
D11 Penn State
D15 at Temple
D22 South Carolina St.
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 at Seton Hall
J9 at Pennsylvania
J12 La Salle
J15 Boston College
J17 Miami
J20 at Providence
J23 at Rutgers
J26 at Pittsburgh
J30 Georgia
F2 Connecticut
F5 at Georgetown
F8 Notre Dame
F12 at St. John's
F15 West Virginia
F17 St. Joseph's
F20 Rutgers
F23 at Syracuse
F26 Seton Hall
M1 Providence
M4 at Boston College

9. Seton Hall

NATIONAL RANK 114

Frontcourt: Seton Hall will miss Duane Jordan, but the Pirates are going to love freshman Samuel Dalembert. Jordan may have been the heart and soul of the Pirates last season, playing larger than his 6-6 frame, but Dalembert is exactly what coach Tommy Amaker has needed on the front line—a tall player (6-11) to win some of those wars the Pirates could never dream of winning the last two seasons. The Pirates had one player taller than 6-6 most of last season, and that's a tough way to go through the physical battles of the Big East. Dalembert can score, rebound and block shots.

Backcourt: The Pirates are loaded with perimeter players. One big question is whether point guard Shaheen Holloway can make it through his senior season without injury problems. When Holloway is healthy, he is one of the top playmakers in the conference. If Holloway is injured this season, Amaker knows he can count on Ty Shine to fill in.

Key to success: There's no doubt the Pirates need a more balanced attack. Lack of size has hindered everything Amaker has wanted to do since he took over at Seton Hall. Dalembert should help rectify that situation. Holloway needs to go out with a bang—and that means distributing the ball, scoring and being a leader.

Outlook: With four starters back and the addition of Dalembert, this is a chance for Seton Hall to make a move in the standings. A 30-30 record and consecutive NIT appearances in Amaker's first two seasons have the Pirates on the right track. Now, they should set higher goals, including a trip to the NCAA Tournament and a first-division finish in the Big East.

Pirates DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Tommy Amaker (30-30, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 15-15. Big East: 8-10/T8th. Lost to Old Dominion in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: South Orange, N.J.
Home court: Continental Airlines Arena (20,029); Walsh Gym (3,200).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
41	G	Brian Campbell	6-3	Sr.	Former team manager has yet to play in a game.					
33	C	Samuel Dalembert	6-11	Fr.	Third-team Parade All-American last season.					
32	F	Reggie Garrett	6-6	Jr.	1.1	2.3	0.6	34.1	75.0	00.0
23	F	Al Harris	6-8	Fr.	Powerfully built prospect should help on boards.					
10	G	Shaheen Holloway*	5-10	Sr.	9.3	2.8	5.0	35.8	67.5	22.1
21	G	Rimas Kaukenas*	6-4	Sr.	13.5	4.7	2.1	46.1	84.3	40.0
30	G	Darius Lane	6-4	So.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
31	F	Charles Manga*	6-10	So.	3.5	5.3	0.0	39.6	47.7	—
55	F	Greg Morton	6-7	Fr.	Athletic player adds depth on the front line.					
15	G	Gary Saunders*	6-5	Sr.	13.5	5.0	2.1	47.0	76.4	32.9
0	G	Ty Shine	6-0	So.	7.8	2.0	2.8	31.3	70.6	22.9
42	F	Kevin Wilkins	6-7	Jr.	Cousin of NBA players Dominique and Gerald.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Ramon Cespedes	6-7	2.9	2.9	0.2	58.8	57.1	100.0
C	Damian Dawkins	6-10	3.2	3.8	0.0	30.8	72.7	—
G	John Johnson	6-2	1.1	0.6	0.4	37.5	50.0	33.3
F	Duane Jordan*	6-6	9.6	7.0	0.9	51.2	75.6	—
G	Chuck Moore	6-2	Transferred to Vanderbilt.					

Schedule

N19 Quinnipiac
N27 Drexel
N29 St. Peter's
D4-5 BB&T Classic
D11 at Florida State
D13 Columbia
D20 Army
D23 SUNY-Stony Brook
D30 Wagner
J4 Villanova
J8 at Georgetown
J11 Miami
J16 at Pittsburgh
J18 St. John's
J22 at Syracuse
J26 at Boston College
J30 at Connecticut
F1 Providence
F5 West Virginia
F9 at Rutgers
F12 Boston College
F14 Connecticut
F19 Notre Dame
F23 Minnesota
F26 at Villanova
F29 at St. John's

10. Boston College

NATIONAL RANK 142

Frontcourt: Many of the same faces are back, but there is a brighter outlook for the Eagles, thanks to experience. Brian Ross finished as one of B.C.'s most improved players. He should be the starter at power forward, while Michael Cotton, Jonathan Beerbohm and Osei Millar are expected to get some playing time at the position. Swingman Kenny Walls started 10 games last season and made his presence known at small forward. Coach Al Skinner will be searching for a center again. He has two 6-10 newcomers—Andrew Dudley and Erik Witt—who could take control of the position.

Backcourt: Senior Dwayne Pina started all 27 games last season and was among the Big East assists leaders. But Pina will share the point guard spot with freshman Troy Bell, who is expected to add scoring and athleticism to a team that can use both. Bell, a finalist for Minnesota's "Mr. Basketball" award, scored 30 or more points in 15 games. Off-guard Kenny Harley was B.C.'s only experienced player last season and returns as the Eagles' leading scorer.

Key to success: The Eagles need improvement from the backcourt. Bell needs to make the transition from high school quickly to provide leadership at point guard.

Outlook: The Eagles know they have been through bad times. B.C. won six games last season and finished last in the Big East. Skinner's team, however, showed heart and even gave national champion Connecticut some tough battles. With more depth and experience, there is every reason to think the Eagles can make significant improvement.

Eagles DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Al Skinner (21-37, 2 years; 159-163 overall, 11 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 6-21. Big East: 3-15/13th.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Home court: Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
00	F	Uka Agbai	6-8	Fr.	Product of NYC power Archbishop Molloy.					
4	F	Jonathan Beerbohm	6-7	Jr.	5.9	2.6	1.0	44.3	74.5	25.0
2	G	Troy Bell	6-1	Fr.	Top scorer in Minn. HS ranks last season (35.9).					
42	F	Jim Boland	6-5	Sr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	00.0	—	00.0
3	G	Michael Cotton*	6-4	Sr.	10.0	4.6	1.3	44.2	62.5	26.4
32	F/C	Andrew Dudley	6-10	Fr.	Strong, athletic big man who runs floor well.					
10	G	Nicolas Dunn	6-3	Jr.	0.0	0.0	0.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
13	G	Kenny Harley*	6-5	Jr.	11.2	3.7	1.5	42.1	75.6	41.6
31	F	Osei Millar	6-8	So.	2.2	1.3	0.2	27.3	50.0	00.0
5	G	Dwayne Pina*	5-10	Sr.	4.3	2.7	4.3	41.3	51.0	37.8
45	F	Brian Ross*	6-8	So.	8.5	4.9	0.7	46.5	65.9	33.9
23	G	Xavier Singletary	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Howard.					
21	G/F	Kenny Walls*	6-5	So.	10.5	4.0	1.1	37.5	74.6	34.7
11	F/C	Erik Witt	6-10	Fr.	Very good passer with a soft shooting touch.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Julian Bah	6-6	0.3	0.4	0.0	33.3	—	—
G	Willie Deane	6-1	5.3	1.6	1.2	37.4	64.4	30.0
G/F	Clinton Sims	6-3	8.7	3.0	0.8	39.6	70.7	32.1

Schedule

N20 at New Hampshire
N23 Vermont
N27 at Penn State
N29 Hartford
D4 Massachusetts
D7 Holy Cross*
D11 St. Francis (N.Y.)
D19 Michigan
D21-23 Puerto Rico Holiday Classic
D30 Iona
J8 Providence
J12 at Notre Dame
J15 at Villanova
J18 at Georgetown
J22 at Miami
J26 Seton Hall
J29 Syracuse
F2 Rutgers
F5 at St. John's
F9 at Connecticut
F12 at Seton Hall
F15 St. John's
F19 at West Virginia
F23 Pittsburgh
F27 at Providence
M4 Villanova
*Worcester, Mass.

11. West Virginia

NATIONAL RANK 173

Frontcourt: When you think about the post-season awards handed out by the Big East coaches last season, perhaps no one received a higher compliment than Marcus Goree. He was a second-team All-Big East selection despite playing on a Mountaineers team that won only four conference games and finished 10-19 overall. Goree finished among the league leaders in scoring, rebounding and field-goal percentage; however, he must have felt like a lonely Mountaineer, thrown to the wolves to get the job done by himself. He would welcome some help from his teammates this season. Chris Moss and John Oliver are back, but the most help up front might come from freshman Keith Kincade, a slasher and ballhandler who could put points on the board.

Backcourt: Point guard Jarett Kearse was a regular in West Virginia's backcourt last season, but when he blew off the team banquet and skipped classes and spring conditioning drills, it was clear he wasn't going to return for his junior season. Coach Gale Catlett is hoping freshman point guard Tim Lyles can inject some enthusiasm. Lyles thrives in an up-tempo game and attacks the basket while pushing the ball in transition.

Key to success: The Mountaineers must learn how to play offense. Goree will attract a lot of attention, so a supporting cast is critical for the Mountaineers to raise their scoring average.

Outlook: It will be hard for a young team to make a move up the Big East ladder, but at least there is hope for improvement. Catlett didn't attract a lot of top recruits, but he has given up on the junior-college approach and is trying to find players to fit West Virginia's style.

Mountaineers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Gale Catlett (400-235, 21 years; 526-279 overall, 27 years; 7-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 10-19. Big East: 4-14/12th.
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Morgantown, W.Va.
Home court: WVU Coliseum (14,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
30	G	Lionel Armstead	5-11	So.	6.0	1.4	1.0	40.9	27.3	36.4
13	F	Brooks Berry	6-6	Jr.	4.7	1.8	0.9	40.8	76.2	27.9
41	C	Calvin Bowman	6-9	Jr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
50	C	Ales Chen	6-11	Fr.	Czech import provides instant size up front.					
20	G	Jason D'Alesio	6-1	Sr.	0.6	0.1	0.0	25.0	100.0	00.0
3	G	Kent Dennis	6-3	Fr.	Could be key if team employs a press defense.					
42	C	Jamar Gaither	6-9	Jr.	2.2	1.4	1.0	71.4	14.3	—
00	F	Marcus Goree*	6-8	Sr.	16.5	7.9	1.7	50.6	74.1	12.5
32	F	Keith Kincade	6-5	Fr.	Member of three state title teams in California.					
21	F	Duane Lewis	6-6	Sr.	0.8	0.0	0.2	50.0	100.0	00.0
12	G	Tim Lyles	5-11	Fr.	The point guard job could be his to lose.					
34	G	Brad McMillian	5-11	Sr.	1.5	0.5	0.4	24.1	57.1	26.7
31	F	Chris Moss*	6-8	So.	5.0	3.9	0.7	40.0	56.9	50.0
45	F	John Oliver	6-9	So.	1.7	1.1	0.3	55.6	71.4	—
22	F	Josh Yeager	6-6	Fr.	Shot 65% from field last year, 40% on threes.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Tom Beynon	6-9	1.4	2.5	0.4	51.9	55.0	—
G	Jarett Kearse*	6-5	12.7	4.4	4.4	39.0	62.5	40.7
F	Jackie Rogers	6-7	Transferred.					
F	Elton Scott*	6-6	15.3	6.3	3.8	44.1	68.1	27.5

Schedule

N23 Wofford
N27 Robert Morris
N30 Duquesne
D4 McNeese St.
D8 at Tennessee
D11 Ohio
D18 Bowling Green
D20 at East Carolina
D28 at Virginia Tech
D31 James Madison
J5 at Miami
J8 St. John's
J11 Syracuse
J15 at Rutgers
J23 at Providence
F2 at Notre Dame
F5 at Seton Hall
F10 Pittsburgh
F15 at Villanova
F22 Miami
F26 at Connecticut
M1 at Georgetown
M4 Rutgers
TBA Marshall*, Georgetown, Providence, Boston College
* Charleston, W.Va.

12. Providence

NATIONAL RANK 212

Frontcourt: Coach Tim Welsh is in the process of overhauling the roster. Erron Maxey and Llewellyn Cole are the only returnees on the front line. But there is one name every Friars fan is familiar with: Karim Shabazz, who transferred from Florida State. No one forgets 7-2 centers, even if they aren't eligible until midseason. Forward Marcus Jefferson, a 6-5 freshman from East Chicago, also is expected to help right away.

Backcourt: Welsh had to make an unexpected adjustment to his roster in late May when guard Sean Connolly announced he was transferring to Ohio State. Now, the Friars must replace their best 3-point shooter and second-leading scorer. Connolly averaged 11 points per game last season. Donta Wade, a transfer from Southeast Illinois Community College, is a scorer who might be able to make up for some of the points missing because of Connolly's defection. John Linehan was a pleasant surprise at the point last season.

Key to success: A defining moment for the Friars will come when Shabazz can start playing. He has the talent to carry this team on his shoulders. But if Shabazz is rusty, it might take some time before the Friars start clicking as a team.

Outlook: Welsh used to experience a lot of personnel changes at Iona, but this is the Big East and continuity counts. Losing Ben Perkins, Leon Brisport and Connolly as transfers was a bit of an embarrassing situation, but Welsh proved last season he is an excellent coach. Perhaps the best thing is getting his own players into the system–although eight new faces in one season is a drastic step.

Friars DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Tim Welsh (16-14, 1 year; 86-36 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-14. Big East: 9-9/T6th. Lost to NC State in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Providence, R.I.
Home court: Providence Civic Center (12,993).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	F	Romeo Augustine	6-7	Fr.	First-team all-state in Ohio last season.					
5	G/F	Jamaal Camah	6-4	Jr.	4.6	2.0	0.7	43.0	54.1	10.5
42	C/F	Llewellyn Cole	6-7	Sr.	4.0	2.3	0.3	59.2	44.7	—
15	F	Peter F.-Marcellino	6-5	Jr.	0.0	0.7	0.0	00.0	—	—
21	G	Kareem Hayletts	6-0	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
	G/F	Mark Jarrel-Wright	6-5	Fr.	Tore ACL last season but is expected to be OK.					
	F	Marcus Jefferson	6-5	Fr.	Needs to get bigger and stronger but has talent.					
12	G	John Linehan*	5-9	Jr.	4.4	2.3	3.8	31.9	79.7	23.3
24	F	Erron Maxey*	6-6	Jr.	9.9	5.9	0.9	50.0	60.4	00.0
	G	Abdul Mills	6-3	Fr.	Brooklyn native will vie for time at point guard.					
	F/C	David Murray	6-9	Jr.	Adds much-needed size to the front line.					
	G	Chris Rogers	6-4	Jr.	Better than 40 percent on 3-pointers last year.					
	C	Karim Shabazz	7-2	Jr.	Transferred from Florida State.					
	G	Donta Wade	6-2	Jr.	Averaged 18.1 ppg in two seasons in JC ranks.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/C	Leon Brisport	6-9	Transferred.					
G	Sean Connolly*	6-4	Transferred.					
F	Justin Farley	6-6	8.6	4.0	1.4	43.7	78.8	21.1
G	Kendrick Moore*	6-3	7.5	2.3	2.3	33.3	84.2	27.7
F	Ben Perkins	6-7	Transferred.					
F	Jamel Thomas*	6-6	22.0	7.2	2.1	42.3	75.4	31.7
G	Corey Wright	5-8	4.3	1.9	3.6	41.7	66.7	29.2

Schedule

N20 Holy Cross
N22 Brown
N25-27 Puerto Rico Shootout
N30 Boston University
D4 at NC State
D7 at Rhode Island
D21 Central Conn. State
D23 Arkansas
D27 Long Island
D30 Massachusetts
J2 Fordham
J5 Georgetown
J8 at Boston College
J12 at Rutgers
J20 Villanova
J23 West Virginia
J27 at Connecticut
J30 at West Virginia
F1 at Seton Hall
F5 Syracuse
F8 St. John's
F12 Rutgers
F16 at Miami
F23 at Notre Dame
F26 Boston College
M1 at Villanova
M5 Pittsburgh

13. Pittsburgh

NATIONAL RANK 220

Frontcourt: New coach Ben Howland doesn't have a lot to work with, but it's nice to have a big man to build around for now. Forward Isaac Hawkins, a senior with All-Big East credentials, will be the leader as the Panthers make the transition from Ralph Willard to Howland. Hawkins has excelled in many aspects of the game and will be forced to contribute points, rebounds, assists, blocks and steals with little assistance inside. Two key frontcourt players–Stephen Flores and Attila Cosby–decided to transfer. Chris Seabrooks hopes to finally get his career rolling, and Howland hopes for contributions from newcomers Donatas Zavackas and Jaron Brown.

Backcourt: Vonteego Cummings is off to the NBA, but there are some familiar faces, led by Ricardo Greer, who could develop into one of the top 3-point shooters in the conference. Greer started all but one game last season and averaged 12.6 points. He should adjust nicely to Howland's philosophy, which puts heavy emphasis on the 3-point play.

Key to success: Pittsburgh's returning players must put the past behind them and embrace Howland's system. His Northern Arizona team led the nation in 3-point field-goal percentage the last three seasons, and that's a different philosophy for the Panthers.

Outlook: There have been disappointments in recent years. Injuries, freak accidents and losses contributed to the demise of Willard. It was time for a fresh start. This season, the odds will continue to be against the Panthers. But given Howland's reputation, that should start to change soon.

Panthers DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Ben Howland (first year; 79-59 overall, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 14-16. Big East: 5-13/11th.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Pittsburgh.
Home court: Fitzgerald Field House (6,798); Civic Center (17,159).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Jaron Brown	6-3	Fr.	First-team all-state in Kentucky last year.					
25	G	Ricardo Greer	6-5	Jr.	12.6	6.5	2.5	44.2	70.1	18.2
52	F	Isaac Hawkins	6-8	Sr.	12.7	8.9	1.0	48.2	67.3	14.3
13	G	Jeremy Holmes	6-0	Sr.	3.1	1.6	2.5	33.3	78.9	34.9
	G	Brandin Knight	6-0	Fr.	Brevin's younger brother has similar skills.					
12	G	Jarrett Lockhart	6-3	Sr.	7.8	3.2	1.1	36.6	77.5	31.4
33	F	Chris Seabrooks	6-9	So.	0.4	1.2	0.0	20.0	42.9	—
22	G	Kellii Taylor	6-0	Sr.	8.5	3.6	2.3	37.6	62.8	33.9
	F	Derrick Worrell	6-7	Jr.	Averaged 15.2 ppg, 11.8 rpg for 23-8 JC team.					
	F	Donatas Zavackas	6-8	Fr.	Versatility may be Lithuanian's biggest asset.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Attila Cosby	Transferred.						
G	Vonteego Cummings	6-5	16.1	4.1	4.3	41.1	69.9	33.1
F	Stephen Flores	Transferred.						
G	Fred Primus	6-3	4.4	1.2	0.9	33.3	85.7	32.7

Schedule

N19 Wright State
N24 St. Francis (Pa.)
N27 IUPUI
D1 Norfolk State
D4 Tennessee
D8 Robert Morris
D11 at Nebraska
D18 Appalachian State
D20 Duquesne*
D23 VCU
D29 at New Orleans
J3 at St. John's
J8 Connecticut
J16 Seton Hall
J19 Syracuse
J22 at Notre Dame
J26 Villanova
F1 at Miami (Fla.)
F6 Notre Dame
F10 at West Virginia
F13 Georgetown
F16 at Syracuse
F20 at Georgetown
F23 at Boston College
F26 Rutgers
F29 Miami (Fla.)
M1 at Providence
*Civic Center

Big Ten

RANK 1

ASCENDING: Illinois. Some people think Lon Kruger has the next Ohio State on his hands. In 12 months, the Buckeyes went from last place to the Final Four. After finishing 3-13 in the league, Illinois showed signs of life in the Big Ten tournament, advancing to the final with upsets of Minnesota, Indiana and Ohio State. And that was without Frank Williams, Marcus Griffin and a big man like freshman Brian Cook.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

DESCENDING: Minnesota. One of the most unsavory scandals in college basketball history has the Gophers on a fierce downward spiral that could take new coach Dan Monson years to recover from. Though the Gophers still have a good class coming, recruiting will be tough for 2000 and possibly beyond. The problems began on the eve of the NCAA Tournament, when it was announced that four players were suspended. That was the tip of the iceberg.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Northwestern's Evan Eschmeyer. Last season, Kevin O'Neill said more than once that the Wildcats would be winless in the Big Ten without the record-setting center. Now he finds out how right he was.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Illinois' Cory Bradford. The sophomore from Memphis held the team together last season. Yes, he was the freshman of the year, so how underrated can he be? Well, on the gold medal-winning U.S. World University Games team, Bradford outscored Michael Redd 6.3 to 6.1 points per game.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Purdue's Brian Cardinal. For most of the season, Citizen Pain was just another good player. Cardinal was supposed to fill the leadership and scoring void left by Brad Miller and Chad Austin. Instead, his scoring and shooting percentage fell off, and the Boilermakers finished seventh in the Big Ten. The postseason was a different story. Cardinal helped the Boilermakers advance to the Sweet 16 by scoring 20 points against Miami (Fla.) and 14 against Texas. Gene Keady wants to see a lot more of that.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Penn State's Jerry Dunn—or some would say Done. Four years ago, in his first season as coach, Penn State finished second in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to Arkansas and haven't been heard from since, never finishing higher than a tie for ninth. How long can they keep finishing near the bottom? Not forever.

BEST BETS: Even though he landed a contract extension, O'Neill will continue to entertain job offers. ... Ohio State will lead the country in players named Slobodan. ... Monson will open his sports section on a cold, snowy morning in the Twin Cities, turn to the fine print, see Gonzaga rolling up the victories and wonder what he's doing there. When he signs Adam Boone, the best prep in the state, his doubts will be assuaged. Sort of.

ODDS AND ENDS: If the RPI measured controversy and sleaze, the Big Ten would tie up four of the top seeds. While awaiting the next Bob Knight discharge and wondering what happened to the Indiana program, let's look around the league to see who has room to criticize. Luke Recker transferred and Knight got involved with a pest at a Mexican restaurant? Not even on the same level compared with some other schools.

Minnesota was torn apart by charges of academic fraud that resulted in the $1.5 million buyout of Clem Haskins. Purdue, on two years' NCAA probation, loses one scholarship this season and next while facing other sanctions. Northwestern still carries the residue of a point-shaving scandal. Michigan faces charges that players received money before Brian Ellerbe showed up. At Michigan State, Mateen Cleaves stays in the news even in the offseason.

By Marc Hansen *Des Moines Register*

Predictions

1. Michigan State	7. Michigan
2. Ohio State	8. Iowa
3. Illinois	9. Penn State
4. Purdue	10. Minnesota
5. Indiana	11. Northwestern
6. Wisconsin	

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State	6-2	195	Sr.
G	Scoonie Penn, Ohio State	5-10	185	Sr.
C	Joel Przybilla, Minnesota	7-1	260	So.
G/F	Michael Redd, Ohio State	6-6	205	Jr.
F	Morris Peterson, Michigan State	6-6	215	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	A.J. Guyton, Indiana	6-1	175	Sr.
G	Cory Bradford, Illinois	6-2	196	So.
C	Ken Johnson, Ohio State	6-11	225	Sr.
C/F	Marcus Griffin, Illinois	6-9	230	Jr.
F	Brian Cardinal, Purdue	6-8	230	Sr.

Player of the Year

Mateen Cleaves, G, Michigan State

Newcomer of the Year

Marcus Griffin, C/F, Illinois

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jaraan Cornell, Purdue
Best rebounder: Ken Johnson, Ohio State
Best playmaker: Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State
Best defender: Mike Kelley, Wisconsin
Best leaper: Morris Peterson, Michigan State
Most versatile: Michael Redd, Ohio State
Most flamboyant: Scoonie Penn, Ohio State
Best NBA prospect: Joel Przybilla, Minnesota

Ranking the Recruiting

1. Michigan: LaVell Blanchard leads impressive group.
2. Michigan State: Strong-to-the-hoop Jason Richardson should play a lot.
3. Illinois: Addition of Peoria product Marcus Griffin (6-9) strengthens frontcourt.
4. Indiana: Big fella George Leach (6-11) should help on boards right away.
5. Wisconsin: Guard Roy Boone is Badgers' best athlete and probably will start.
6. Minnesota: Explosive Michael Bauer will challenge for starting spot right away.
7. Penn State: Look for guard Brandon Watkins to gain seasoning this fall.
8. Northwestern: Pencil scoring guard Ben Johnson in as a starter.
9. Ohio State: Guard Brent Darby should learn a lot from Scoonie Penn.
10. Iowa: Junior-college guy Rob Griffin expected to blossom for Steve Alford.
11. Purdue: Versatile Kenny Lowe should provide scoring punch for Boilermakers.

1. Michigan State

NATIONAL RANK 1

Schedule

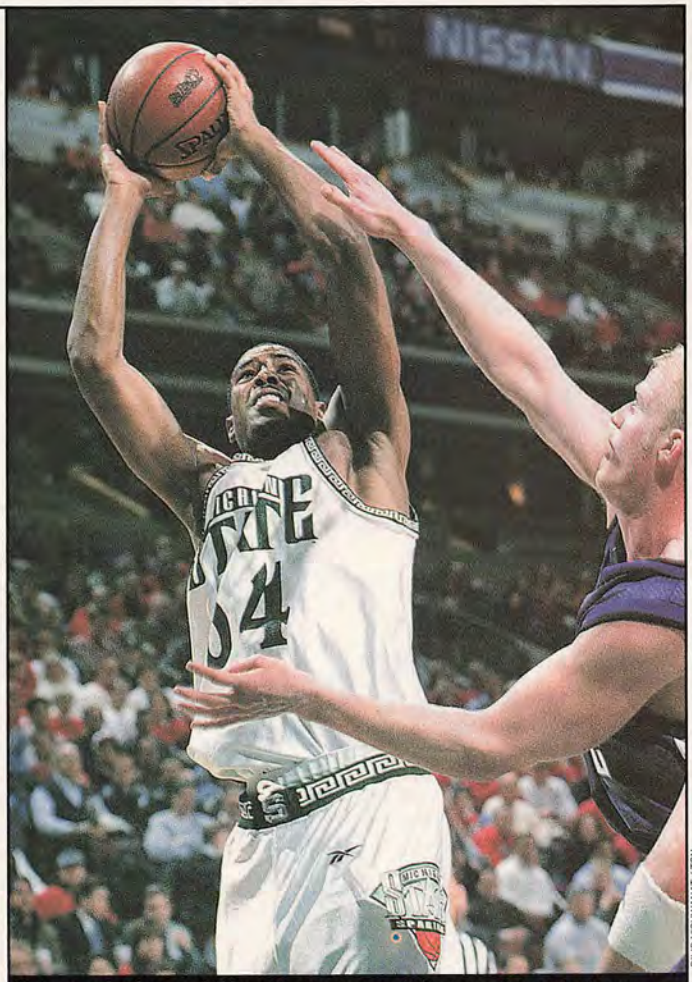
N22 Toledo
N25-27 San Juan Shootout
D1 at North Carolina
D3-4 Spartan Classic
D7 Kansas*
D11 at Arizona
D18 Oakland
D23 at Kentucky
D28 Mississippi Valley State
D30 at Wright State
J5 Penn State
J8 at Iowa
J11 Indiana
J20 at Ohio State
J22 Northwestern
J27 at Northwestern
J30 Illinois
F1 at Michigan
F5 Connecticut
F8 at Purdue
F12 at Wisconsin
F15 Ohio State
F19 Wisconsin
F23 at Penn State
F26 at Indiana
F29 Minnesota
*Chicago

Frontcourt: With rebounding machine Antonio Smith gone, the Spartans will need help on the glass. Smith, a third-team all-conference power forward, was the main reason MSU had been first or second in league rebound margin the past four years. The offensive rebound became the Spartans' best offensive weapon. It will be hard to put Andre Hutson on the bench. Though he sometimes disappears offensively, the junior has been a starter almost since he stepped on campus. When he does shoot, he usually scores. You didn't see that .617 field-goal percentage listed among the league leaders last season—Hutson had too few attempts. Transfer Mike Chappell (7.0 points, 2.0 rebounds, 14.3 minutes a game in his final season at Duke) looks like a good candidate on the wing. He started 21 of the Blue Devils' first 22 games two seasons ago before losing his place on the first team. Still, he led the team in three-point shooting at 43.4 percent. The junior from Southfield, Mich., was a member of the Big Ten team that toured Austria over the summer. Speaking of outside shooting, the Spartans will need A.J. Granger's perimeter scoring touch more than ever. In Michigan State's four NCAA Tournament victories, he was 7-for-8 from beyond the arc.

Backcourt: Mateen Cleaves will be a candidate for national Player of the Year again, assuming his off-court problems don't get in the way. His scoring fell off last season, in part because of a slow start. But if there's a big shot to be made, look for Cleaves to make it. And look for him to play more than 30 minutes a game again this season, which is good for MSU, bad for the other guys. Cleaves also is the Spartans' best defensive player. Thomas Kelley is out of eligibility, but that will mean more minutes at 2-guard for Charlie Bell, one of the most underrated players in the league. When Bell and Cleaves grow weary, coach Tom Izzo can sub with Lorenzo Guess (when he trades in his shoulder pads), Brandon Smith and David Thomas. Watch for Cleaves and Bell to lead the team in minutes.

Key to success: Two years ago, Stanford advanced to the Final Four. With almost everyone back, the Cardinal failed to make a return trip. The moral to this story? Once you think you've got it made, you probably don't. The Spartans won a school-record 22 in a row before losing by six points to Duke in the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament. If they view that run as the ultimate, they're in trouble. If they see it as a case of unfinished business, look out. The Spartans weren't much of a 3-point-shooting team. At 33.8 percent, they were next to last in the league. Outside accuracy was Michigan State's soft underbelly. When Cleaves was hitting from afar, the Spartans were unbeatable. When he, Granger and Jason Klein were clanking 3-pointers, the job became much tougher. In the loss to Connecticut and in the two losses to Duke, good outside shooting might have been a savior for the Spartans.

Outlook: The Spartans don't quite have it all, but they come closer than anybody else in this conference. With Cleaves leading the way, they will lead the nation in toughness, mentally and physically. That toughness was exemplified by the best rebounding margin in the Big Ten and a defense that gave up 57.8 points in the four tournament wins leading to the Final Four. They won a school-record 33 games in 1998-99 and won't be far from that this season.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Not enough of a good thing: *The Spartans would like to see Hutson shoot more, because when he shoots, it usually means points.*

Spartans DATA

Coach: Tom Izzo (88-41, 4 years; 88-41 overall, 4 years; 6-2 NCAA Tournament record.)
1998-99 record: 34-5. Big Ten: 15-1/1st. Lost to Duke in NCAA national semifinals.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: East Lansing, Mich.
Home court: Breslin Center (14,659).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
25	F	Al Anagonye	6-8	Fr.	Led prep team to three state titles in four years.					
44	C	Jason Andreas	6-10	Fr.	Earned honorable all-state mention in Ohio.					
55	F	Adam Ballinger	6-9	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
14	G	Charlie Bell*	6-3	So.	7.8	3.8	1.02	47.7	75.4	35.6
20	F	Mike Chappell	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Duke.					
22	F	Steve Cherry	6-6	Jr.	0.5	0.4	0.11	40.0	50.0	0.00
12	G	Mateen Cleaves*	6-2	Sr.	11.7	1.6	7.2	40.6	78.7	29.2
43	F	A.J. Granger	6-9	Sr.	6.6	3.9	0.57	53.2	71.4	50.0
5	G	Lorenzo Guess	6-3	Jr.	0.8	0.6	0.0	50.0	0.00	50.0
34	F	Andre Hutson*	6-8	Jr.	8.9	5.2	0.62	61.7	78.1	0.00
15	G	Mat Ishbia	5-10	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
42	F	Morris Peterson	6-6	Sr.	13.6	5.7	0.94	55.4	81.4	37.3
23	G/F	Jason Richardson	6-6	Fr.	Michigan's Mr. Basketball stays home.					
10	G	Brandon Smith	5-10	Jr.	0.2	0.2	0.38	12.5	50.0	0.00
11	G/F	David Thomas	6-7	Jr.	3.5	3.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	F	Adam Wolfe	6-8	Fr.	Ohio native will add depth to front line.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Antonio Smith*	6-8	6.5	8.4	1.07	53.5	46.2	0.00
F	Jason Klein*	6-7	9.4	2.7	0.97	41.3	76.6	33.8
G	Thomas Kelley	6-2	5.1	1.2	1.10	36.0	83.3	28.6
G	Doug Davis	6-3	Transferred to Miami of Ohio.					

2. Ohio State

NATIONAL RANK 7

Schedule

N16-26 Preseason NIT
N29 Vermont
D4 Duquesne
D11 Florida A&M
D13 Coastal Carolina
D16 at Kansas
D19 Eastern Kentucky
D22 Toledo
D27 Oakland
D29 American
J6 at Illinois
J8 Minnesota
J13 at Wisconsin
J15 at Northwestern
J20 Michigan State
J22 at St. John's
J29 Purdue
F2 Wisconsin
F6 at Michigan
F9 Iowa
F12 Penn State
F15 at Michigan State
F19 at Indiana
F23 Northwestern
F27 Illinois
M1 at Penn State
M4 at Minnesota

Frontcourt: Will 6-11 center Ken Johnson turn into a star? He might have to with the NCAA ruling against 7-3 transfer Aleksander Radojevic, saying the junior-college recruit took $13,000 while playing for a Yugoslavian club team and was ineligible. Johnson began his career as a project, but by season's end he had moved a lot closer to finished-product status. While playing roughly the same number of minutes per game, Johnson raised his shot-blocking total to 100 in 1998-99 from 58 the previous season, most of anyone in the league. In Big Ten action, he was fifth in rebounding. After Johnson, though, the Buckeyes are as thin inside as they are thick on the outside. They'll miss Jason Singleton's athleticism and versatility. The Buckeyes got a lot smaller when they replaced Jon Sanderson with Brian Brown for the last five games. Sanderson is leaving for Ohio. Also transferring is Shamar Herron, a 6-9 forward who will enroll at Eastern Michigan. This leaves the Buckeyes with only Johnson, George Reese, Will Dudley and freshman Slobodan Ocokoljic to patrol the front line.

Backcourt: Without Scoonie Penn, the Buckeyes won eight games the year before and finished 1-15 in the Big Ten. With him, they won a school record-tying 27 games and lost nine. Without him, Jim O'Brien didn't catch a whiff of the postseason. With him, O'Brien was the media's Big Ten Coach of the Year. With Penn earning All-American kudos and league honors as player of the year from the media, the Buckeyes earned their first Final Four berth since 1968. In doing so, they pulled off one of the biggest turnarounds in NCAA history. Only one Final Four team—Wisconsin in 1940—had a lower winning percentage the season before. Penn was the only new addition to the lineup, which tells you all you need to know about what he meant to his team. From 11th place to second, on his shoulders all the way. Michael Redd wasn't just a bit player. In fact, he and Penn give Ohio State perhaps the best backcourt in the country. Redd's numbers went down, but that was good news. This wasn't a one-man team anymore. Though he failed to defend his scoring title, Redd went from a third-team All-Big Ten choice to a second-team pick. With 19.5 points per game, he finished third in the league in scoring. You never heard much about Neshaun Coleman, but he was third (Big Ten) in 3-point field-goal percentage. Coleman's underrated outside shooting will be missed, but freshman Brent Darby should be a capable backup for Penn.

Key to success: The continued development of Johnson is a big if, but it wouldn't hurt if the Buckeyes hit a few more free throws. This was the worst free-throw-shooting team in the Big Ten. In the six-point loss to Connecticut in the Final Four, they missed eight of their 18 attempts. Unfortunately, that was typical. The Buckeyes shot 61 percent for the year.

Outlook: The Buckeyes' 12-4 Big Ten record was its best since 1992, when they went 15-3 and won the league title. They opened the new Value City Arena with a 14-1 home-court record. This time, the eyes of the basketball world will be upon them. With four starters returning, with Penn and Redd back, the Buckeyes should be able to make a run at Michigan State. Singleton will be missed, but you'd have to say the loss of Antonio Smith at Michigan State is the bigger blow.



PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY FOR TSN

Dynamic duo: *With the arrival of Penn, Redd's (above) numbers went down, but his game definitely was not going south.*

Buckeyes DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jim O'Brien (35-31, 2 years; 270-248 overall, 17 years; 9-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 27-9. Big Ten: 12-4/2nd. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA national semifinals.
Last league title: 1992.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Columbus, Ohio.
Home court: Value City Arena (19,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
13	G	Brian Brown	6-3	So.	4.1	1.7	1.91	39.1	51.9	36.4
4	G	Brent Darby	6-0	Fr.	Hit 81 percent of his free throws as a senior.					
43	F	Will Dudley	6-9	So.	2.3	1.6	0.13	66.7	50.0	00.0
32	C	Ken Johnson*	6-11	Sr.	6.4	5.7	0.22	52.1	48.6	00.0
21	F	Slobodan Ocokoljic	6-8	Fr.	Averaged 17.5 points per game in Yugoslavia.					
12	G	Scoonie Penn*	5-10	Sr.	16.9	3.9	4.27	44.9	74.1	38.4
22	G/F	Michael Redd*	6-6	Jr.	19.7	5.6	2.36	46.6	61.4	34.1
40	F	George Reese	6-7	Sr.	5.5	4.3	1.44	42.0	59.3	00.0
10	G	Doylan Robinson	6-4	So.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
21	G	Slobodan Savovic	6-6	So.	3.5	1.7	1.26	40.2	66.0	32.2
31	F	Kwadjo Steele	6-6	Sr.	0.7	0.9	0.23	25.0	33.3	33.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Neshaun Coleman	6-3	4.6	1.0	0.6	36.4	83.3	36.4
F	Jason Singleton*	6-5	8.9	4.6	2.0	63.5	55.5	00.0
F	Jon Sanderson*	6-7	Transferred to Ohio.					
C	Shamar Herron	6-9	Transferred to Eastern Michigan.					

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4th	$1,000	$200	$75
5th	$500	$100	$50
6th-10th	$200	$15,000 Grand Prize!	
11th-25th	$100		

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THE PLAYERS

CENTERS

ID#	Name	Pos.	Team	Salary
1100	Oneal, Shaquille	C	LAL	4290
1101	Robinson, David	C	SAS	4250
1102	Olajuwon, H.	C	HOU	4160
1103	Mourning, Alonzo	C	MIA	4030
1104	Divac, Vlade	C	SAC	4010
1105	Sabonis, Arvydas	C	POR	3150
1106	Mutombo, Dik.	C	ATL	3090
1107	Campbell, Elden	C	CHA	2700
1108	Ewing, Patrick	C	NYK	2560
1109	Austin, Isaac	C	ORL	2340
1110	Geiger, Matt	C	PHI	2230
1111	Williams, Jayson	C	NJN	2130
1112	Dampier, Erick	C	GSW	1920
1113	Bradley, Shawn	C	DAL	1900
1114	Smits, Rik	C	IND	1870
1115	Thorpe, Otis	C	WAS	1850
1116	Willis, Kevin	C	TOR	1850
1117	Ilgauskas, Zyd.	C	CLE	1800
1118	Ostertag, Greg	C	UTH	1750
1119	Potapenko, Vitaly	C	BOS	1680
1120	Battie, Tony	C	BOS	1600
1121	Declercq, Andrew	C	CLE	1580
1122	Reeves, Bryant	C	VAN	1520
1123	Dele, Bison	C	DET	1510
1124	Polynice, Olden	C	SEA	1350
1125	Garrett, Dean	C	MIN	1310
1126	Johnson, Ervin	C	MIL	1280
1127	Olowokandi, M.	C	LAC	1250
1128	Seikaly, Rony	C	NJN	1230
1129	Longley, Luc	C	PHO	1120
1130	Cato, Kelvin	C	POR	1090
1131	Parks, Cherokee	C	VAN	1030
1132	Lafrentz, Raef	C	DEN	1020
1133	Radojevic, Alek	C	TOR	1000
1135	Doleac, Michael	C	ORL	950
1136	Muresan, G.	C	NJN	900
1137	Weis, Frederic	C	NYK	900
1138	Foyle, Adonal	C	GSW	750
1139	Williams, HotRod	C	DAL	640
1140	Montross, Eric	C	DET	610
1141	Eschmeyer, Evan	C	NJN	600
1142	Jones, Jumaine	C	PHI	600
1143	Perdue, Will	C	SAS	600
1146	Wennington, Bill	C	CHI	550
1147	Dudley, Chris	C	NYK	510
1150	Booth, Calvin	C	WAS	500
1151	Bramlet, A.J.	C	CLE	500
1157	Elson, Francisco	C	DEN	500
1158	Foster, Greg	C	UTH	500
1162	Kleine, Joe	C	PHO	500
1163	Lang, Andrew	C	CHI	500
1181	Washington, Tyr.	C	HOU	500
1186	Young, Tim	C	GSW	500

FORWARDS

2100	Pippen, Scottie	F	HOU	4190
2101	Duncan, Tim	F	SAS	3850
2102	Abdur-rahim, S.	F	VAN	3320
2103	Medyess, Antonio	F	DEN	3250
2104	Garnett, Kevin	F	MIN	3220
2105	Hill, Grant	F	DET	3170
2106	Malone, Karl	F	UTH	3140
2107	Walker, Antoine	F	BOS	3090
2108	Kukoc, Toni	F	CHI	3000
2109	Pierce, Paul	F	BOS	2940
2110	Mason, Anthony	F	CHA	2900
2111	Webber, Chris	F	SAC	2850
2112	Van Horn, Keith	F	NJN	2840
2113	Schrempf, Detlef	F	SEA	2820
2114	Robinson, Cliff	F	PHO	2780
2115	Kemp, Shawn	F	CLE	2750
2116	Baker, Vin	F	SEA	2720
2117	Ratliff, Theo	F	PHI	2650
2118	Johnson, Larry	F	NYK	2610
2119	Mullin, Chris	F	IND	2580
2120	Russell, Bryon	F	UTH	2550
2121	Robinson, Glenn	F	MIL	2460
2122	Gugliotta, Tom	F	PHO	2450
2123	Barkley, Charles	F	HOU	2420
2124	Smith, Joe	F	MIN	2410
2125	Williams, Walt	F	POR	2410
2126	Camby, Marcus	F	NYK	2340
2127	Rice, Glen	F	LAL	2270
2128	Mcgrady, Tracy	F	TOR	2200
2129	Piatkowski, Eric	F	LAC	2160
2130	Stojakovic, P.	F	SAC	2140
2131	Elliott, Sean	F	SAS	2060
2132	Marshall, Donyell	F	GSW	1960
2133	Murray, Lamond	F	LAC	1950
2134	Grant, Brian	F	POR	1930
2135	Ellis, Dale	F	ORL	1900
2136	Trent, Gary	F	DAL	1900
2137	Grant, Horace	F	SEA	1850
2138	Mercer, Ron	F	BOS	1850
2142	Wallace, Rasheed	F	POR	1810
2143	Howard, Juwan	F	WAS	1760
2144	Henderson, Alan	F	ATL	1750
2145	Oakley, Charles	F	TOR	1750
2147	Laettner, Christian	F	DET	1710
2148	Coleman, Derrick	F	CHA	1660
2149	Taylor, Maurice	F	LAC	1650
2152	Mashburn, Jamal	F	MIA	1620
2153	Brown, Pj	F	MIA	1610
2154	Mitchell, Sam	F	MIN	1610
2155	Brand, Elton	F	CHI	1500
2156	Outlaw, Bo	F	ORL	1500
2158	Ceballos, Cedric	F	DAL	1470
2159	Corbin, Tyrone	F	ATL	1460
2161	Davis, Dale	F	IND	1430
2162	Vaught, Loy	F	DET	1430
2163	Manning, Danny	F	PHO	1400
2164	Odom, Lamar	F	LAC	1400
2165	Rodman, Dennis	F	FA	1400
2166	Fox, Rick	F	LAL	1390
2167	Davis, Antonio	F	IND	1360
2168	Fortson, Danny	F	DEN	1350
2169	Saczerbiak, Wally	F	MIN	1350
2170	Rogers, Rodney	F	LAC	1320
2171	Bender, Jonathan	F	TOR	1300
2172	Hamilton, Richard	F	WAS	1300
2173	Horry, Robert	F	LAL	1300
2174	Burrell, Scott	F	NJN	1270
2176	Simpkins, Dickey	F	CHI	1260
2178	Perkins, Sam	F	IND	1250
2180	Ellis, Laphonso	F	ATL	1210
2181	Marion, Shawn	F	PHO	1200
2182	Nowitzki, Dirk	F	DAL	1200
2183	Walker, Samaki	F	DAL	1160
2186	Wilkins, Dom.	F	FA	1120
2187	Thomas, Tim	F	MIL	1100
2188	Jamison, Antawn	F	GSW	1070
2191	Williamson, C.	F	SAC	1060
2193	Wallace, John	F	TOR	1030
2195	Augmon, Stacey	F	POR	1020
2196	Artest, Ron	F	CHI	1000
2198	Maggette, Cory	F	ORL	1000
2200	Traylor, Robert	F	MIL	990
2201	Funderburke, L.	F	SAC	970
2202	Taylor, Johnny	F	DEN	950
2206	Weatherspoon, C.	F	MIA	930
2209	Thomas, Kurt	F	NYK	880
2210	Reid, Jr	F	LAL	870
2214	Foster, Jeff	F	IND	800
2221	Thomas, Kenny	F	HOU	750
2222	Bullard, Matt	F	HOU	720
2224	Green, A.C.	F	DAL	700
2227	James, Tim	F	MIA	600
2228	Kersey, Jerome	F	SAS	600
2229	Kirilenko, Andrei	F	UTH	600
2230	Padgett, Scott	F	UTH	600
2231	Smith, Leon	F	DAL	600
2243	Caffey, Jason	F	GSW	500
2248	Edwards, Blue	F	MIA	500
2249	Ekezie, Obinna	F	VAN	500
2253	Gatling, Chris	F	MIL	500
2259	Hill, Rico	F	LAC	500
2263	Jones, Popeye	F	BOS	500
2267	Lang, Antonio	F	CLE	500
2276	Nailon, Lee	F	CHA	500
2279	Owens, Billy	F	ORL	500
2284	Rhodes, Rodrick	F	VAN	500
2286	Ruffin, Michael	F	CHI	500
2287	Sasser, Jason	F	VAN	500

GUARDS

3100	Carter, Vince	G	TOR	4160
3101	Kidd, Jason	G	PHO	3820
3102	Bryant, Kobe	G	LAL	3510
3103	Payton, Gary	G	SEA	3490
3104	Jones, Eddie	G	CHA	3450
3105	Iverson, Allen	G	PHI	3390
3106	Christie, Doug	G	TOR	3060
3107	Hardaway, Anf.	G	ORL	2930
3108	Finley, Michael	G	DAL	2800
3109	Marbury, Stephon	G	NJN	2680
3110	Anderson, Nick	G	ORL	2660
3111	Miller, Reggie	G	IND	2610
3112	Stoudamire, D.	G	POR	2610
3113	Hardaway, Tim	G	MIA	2560
3114	Blaylock, Mookie	G	GSW	2540
3115	Kittles, Kerry	G	NJN	2520
3116	Houston, Allan	G	NYK	2500
3117	Armstrong, Darrell	G	ORL	2470
3118	Stockton, John	G	UTH	2460
3119	Richmond, Mitch	G	WAS	2450
3120	Smith, Steve	G	ATL	2410
3121	Rider, Isaiah	G	POR	2330
3122	Harper, Ron	G	CHI	2270
3123	Allen, Ray	G	MIL	2250
3124	Brandon, Terrell	G	MIN	2230
3125	Strickland, Rod	G	WAS	2220
3126	Billups, Chauncey	G	DEN	2190
3127	Williams, Jason	G	SAC	2160
3128	Sprewell, Latrell	G	NYK	2150
3129	Van Exel, Nick	G	DEN	2130
3130	Brown, Dee	G	TOR	2110
3131	Hughes, Larry	G	PHI	2010
3132	Starks, John	G	GSW	1950
3133	Hornacek, Jeff	G	UTH	1920
3134	Stackhouse, Jerry	G	DET	1920
3135	Johnson, Avery	G	SAS	1910
3136	Person, Wesley	G	CLE	1900
3137	Mobley, Cuttino	G	HOU	1870
3138	Gill, Kendall	G	NJN	1860
3139	Anderson, Kenny	G	BOS	1850
3140	Phills, Bobby	G	CHA	1850
3141	Porter, Terry	G	MIA	1840
3142	Hunter, Lindsey	G	DET	1820
3143	Knight, Brevin	G	CLE	1820
3144	Ward, Charlie	G	NYK	1780
3145	Abdul-wahad, T.	G	SAC	1730
3146	Hawkins, Hersey	G	SEA	1720
3147	Wesley, David	G	CHA	1720
3148	Jackson, Mark	G	IND	1650
3149	Cassell, Sam	G	MIL	1630
3150	Barros, Dana	G	BOS	1590
3151	Bibby, Mike	G	VAN	1570
3152	Nash, Steve	G	DAL	1560
3153	Chapman, Rex	G	PHO	1550
3154	Elie, Mario	G	SAS	1550
3156	Rose, Jalen	G	IND	1500
3157	Barry, Brent	G	CHI	1490
3158	Francis, Steve	G	VAN	1450
3159	Childs, Chris	G	NYK	1420
3160	Davis, Baron	G	CHA	1400
3161	Dickerson, M.	G	HOU	1400
3163	Fisher, Derek	G	LAL	1350
3164	Snow, Eric	G	PHI	1340
3166	Anderson, Derek	G	CLE	1280
3167	Scott, Dennis	G	MIN	1250
3169	Jackson, Jimmy	G	POR	1230
3170	Maxwell, Vernon	G	SAC	1230
3171	Jackson, Jaren	G	SAS	1220
3172	Jackson, Bobby	G	MIN	1200
3173	Miller, Andre	G	CLE	1200
3175	Anthony, Greg	G	POR	1170
3178	Harper, Derek	G	LAL	1110
3179	Pack, Robert	G	DAL	1100
3183	Langdon, Trajan	G	CLE	1050
3184	Terry, Jason	G	ATL	1050
3186	Avery, William	G	MIN	1000

FOR A COMPLETE 1999 ROSTER PLEASE GO TO: games.sportingnews.com/nba OR SEE YOUR MANAGER'S KIT. EACH PLAYER'S TEAM DESIGNATION IS BASED ON THEIR TEAM AS OF JULY 23, 1999.

CLIP & RETURN THIS PORTION

THE PROGRAM

ROSTERS

TSN Basketball Rosters will consist of 22 total players, 13 active players which must correspond to designated position, and 9 bench players which may be comprised of any position.

Active roster should consist of 3 centers, 5 guards, and 5 forwards and cannot exceed the $30,000,000 salary cap, the salaries of the bench players do not matter unless they are activated in which case they must fit within the salary cap of the active players.

LEAGUE AND DIVISION FORMATIONS

Leagues of 25 are formed as registrations are received on a first come first served basis. Initial league designation should be temporary until start of the game when they will be made permanent.

Divisions of 300 are formed by combining 12 leagues on a first come first served basis.

Multiple entries received in the same envelope for the same individual should be places in different leagues unless otherwise specified.

Multiple entries received in the same envelope for different individuals should be places in the same league unless otherwise specified.

SCORING

Each team will be ranked within its league, division, and national by eleven statistical categories.

Scoring Categories:

- Total Points
- 3 Point Field Goals Made
- 2 Point Field Goals Made
- Offensive Rebounds
- Turnovers (Negative)
- Free Throws Made
- Assists
- Defensive Rebounds
- Steals
- Blocks
- Personal Fouls (Negative)

Any teams that tie in a category will have the points averaged between the teams involved in the tie.

Each category is ranked at each level; League, Division, and Nationally, assigning points in the opposite order of the ranking. The three levels of rankings are competing independently of each other when determining overall rankings. The number of points possible are determined by the level of scoring being calculated. Ex. The maximum number of points in each category within the league level is 25 for the best team, the max for division is 300, and the national level would be determined by the number of entrants.

REPORTS

Bi-Weekly reports are included with the entry fees; additional reports are available for purchase on the following scale:

Weekly Reports (Mail)	$14.95
Weekly Reports (Fax)	$19.95

The first weekly report will include weeks 1 & 2 and will be mailed the week of November 15, 1999. The roster of the teams in each league will be mailed to each team in that league three times: Week of November 29, 1999; January 10, 2000; and February 21, 2000.

COST TO PLAY

Early Registration Prices and Deadlines:

- $39.95 – Postmarked by Sept. 27, 1999
- $49.95 – Postmarked by Oct. 18, 1999
- $59.95 – Postmarked by Nov. 1, 1999
- Internet, Fax and Phone Registration taken until 5:30 PM CST November 2, 1999

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 5, 1999 TO BE ELIGIBLE.

TRADES

There are three ways for customers to trade players in the TSN Fantasy Basketball Challenge – Our Interactive Commissioner Phone System, the Internet, or through a Fantasy Sports Commissioner.

The following trades are available in the TSN Fantasy Basketball Challenge:

- Bench Trades ($2.50)
- New Player Purchase to your Active Roster ($7.50)
- New Player Purchase to your Bench ($5.00)
- Acquire a Free Agent ($1.00)

All Trades Prior to November 2, 1999 at 5:30 PM CT are FREE, regardless of the type of transaction.

SAVE 20% BY PURCHASING YOUR TRADES IN ADVANCE!

Just check the appropriate box on the registration form or contact a Fantasy Sports Commissioner at **1-800-789-8980**

TRADE LIMITS

You are limited to 7 total new player purchases. These moves can be used either for your bench, or your active roster, or any combination of both not exceeding 7 moves. Bench trading will be unlimited.

FREE AGENTS

The Sporting News will list 4 Free Agents each week in the magazine and on the website, which may be picked up for $1 to either your Active Roster or your Bench. Each team will be limited to three (3) free agent purchases throughout the season.

TRADE DEADLINES

All trading prior to November 2, 1999 is free. Trading Weeks (Game Weeks) will begin at 8 a.m. CT on Mondays and end at Midnight CT on Sundays.

ONLY ORIGINAL FORMS OR PHOTOCOPY OF ORIGINAL FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED.

I. TEAM OWNER INFORMATION

MAIL ENTRY TO: TSN FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE • P.O. Box 142916 • Irving, TX 75014

PLEASE FILL OUT IN CLEAR, CAPITAL LETTERS

22011090

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

YOUR TEAM NAME

HOME PHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: NOTE: Make checks payable to TSN Fantasy Basketball Challenge.

❑ CHECK ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD ❑ AMEX ❑ DISCOVER ❑ MONEY ORDER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER (Visa, MC, AMEX & Discover accepted.) EXP. DATE

HAVE YOU PLAYED WITH US BEFORE? ❑ YES ❑ NO

IF YES, ENTER YOUR PREVIOUS TEAM ID#

Signature

FAXED ENTRIES ACCEPTED AT (972)889-5359

II. ACTIVE ROSTER

POS	ID#	SAL	POS	ID#	SAL	POS	ID#	SAL
F			C			G		
F			C			G		
F			C			G		
F						G		
F						G		

REQUIRED: TOTAL YOUR TEAM'S SALARY. (CANNOT EXCEED $30,000,000)

$ X 1,000 = $

III. BENCH

	ID#	SAL		ID#	SAL
1.			6.		
2.			7.		
3.			8.		
4.			9.		
5.					

ENTER EARLY AND SAVE!

❑ ENTRY POSTMARKED BY 9/27/99 QTY____X $39.95 ____

❑ ENTRY POSTMARKED BY 10/18/99 QTY____X $49.95 ____

❑ POSTMARKED AFTER 10/18/99 QTY____X $59.95 ____

NOTE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 11/1/99 AND RECEIVED BY 11/5/99 TO BE ELIGIBLE.

REPORTS AND TRADE PACKAGES

❑ WEEKLY UPDATE REPORTS (MAIL) QTY____X $14.95 ____

❑ WEEKLY UPDATE REPORTS (FAX) QTY____X $19.95 ____

❑ 50 TRADE CREDITS (SAVE 20%) QTY____X $40.00 ____

❑ 75 TRADE CREDITS (SAVE 20%) QTY____X $60.00 ____

❑ 100 TRADE CREDITS (SAVE 20%) QTY____X $80.00 ____

TOTAL CHARGES $ ____

The Sporting News — Game Managed by: PRIME SPORTS INTERACTIVE

TSN Fantasy Sports. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. To receive a copy of the official rules and a one-time team selection form void of all services, send your name, address, social security number, DOB, and telephone number along with a self addressed stamped envelope to: Alternative Entry, TSN Fantasy Basketball PO Box 142916, Irving TX, 75014. One request per envelope. One request per household. All requests must be received by October 2, 1999. You must be 18 years or older to participate. Void where prohibited by law. Not all complete rules and regulations are included in this ad. Not responsible for errors or omissions. A complete list of official rules are contained in the Manager's Kit and can be viewed at games.sportingnews.com/nba. Upon registering you have 72 hours to read and accept the rules. No employees of The Sporting News or Prime Sports Interactive, nor their families, sponsors, are eligible to win. Estimated number of participants 7,500. Prime Sports Interactive is a licensee of The Sporting News, a division of Times Mirror, and is solely responsible for administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of the Challenges. If the 1999 NBA season does not start as planned, or contains a work stoppage for any reason, TSN Fantasy Basketball reserves the right to modify the game as it believes will best accommodate the completion of its participants. TSN Fantasy Basketball reserves the right to disqualify any entry not completed correctly, with insufficient funds, received after stated deadlines, or suspected of cheating. TSN Fantasy Basketball Challenge is not responsible for delayed, lost, or misdirected mail. Canadian, Mexican and Overseas entries please add $15.00 to entry fee to cover cost of mailings.

3. Illinois

NATIONAL RANK 10

Schedule

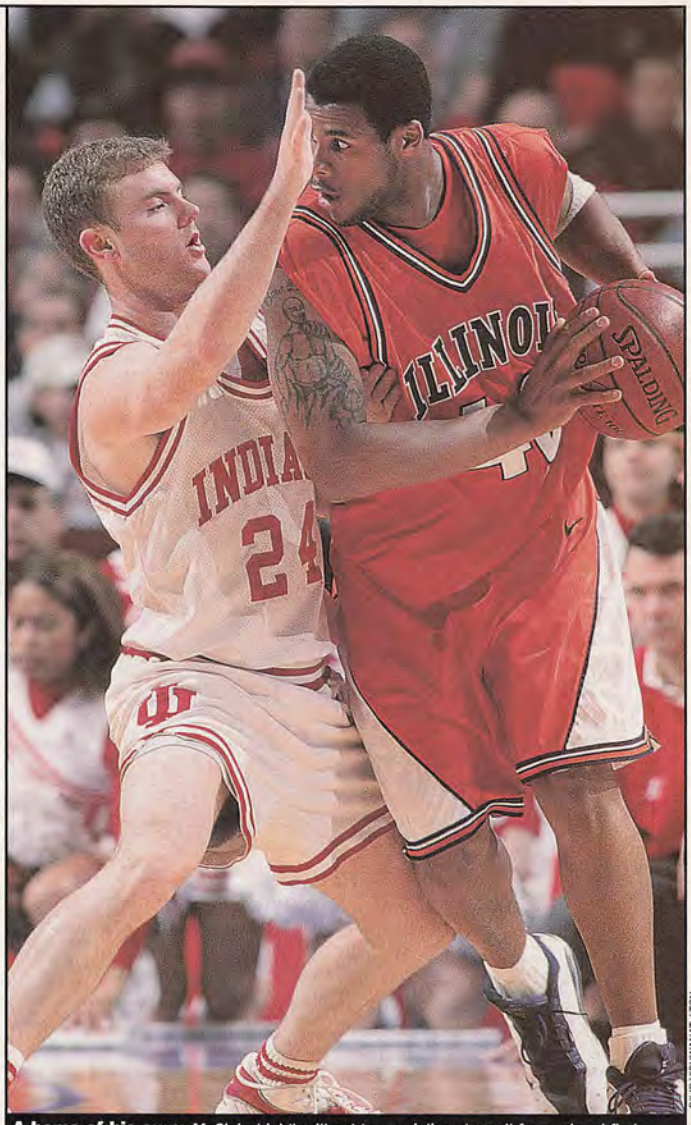
N19	Western Illinois
N22	at Bradley
N30	Duke*
D4-5	B.B.+T. Classic
D8	Texas-Pan American
D11	Kansas State
D18	Kansas
D21	Missouri
D28	Bethune-Cookman
D30	Loyola of Chicago
J6	Ohio State
J8	at Wisconsin
J12	Purdue
J16	at Michigan
J22	Penn State
J26	at Iowa
J30	at Michigan State
F2	Minnesota
F6	at Penn State
F9	Michigan
F12	Iowa
F17	at Minnesota
F19	at Northwestern
F22	Indiana
F27	at Ohio State
M4	Northwestern
*Chicago	

Frontcourt: Not many teams go as deep here as the Illini. And that's even before the arrival of transfer Marcus Griffin, the Division II junior-college Player of the Year, and Brian Cook, the 1999 Illinois Mr. Basketball. Victor Chukwudebe, Robert Archibald and Lucas Johnson played well in the Big Ten tournament last season, helping Illinois beat three ranked teams before falling to Michigan State in the championship game. Chukwudebe started the final 14 games at center and had 10 points and nine rebounds in the first half against the Gophers. Archibald put on 10 pounds over the spring (he's up to 220) and averaged 11.7 points per game on the team's trip to Australia. And those are just the big guys. At small forward, there's Johnson, who averaged 12.5 points in four Big Ten tournament games, up almost 10 points from his season totals. There's also Damir Krupalija, who started 12 games last season, leading the team in rebounding. At small forward, muscular Sergio McClain should be more comfortable after starting 28 of 31 games and playing every position but center. Where will coach Lon Kruger find playing time for swingman Cleotis Brown, the team's second-leading scorer last season?

Backcourt: Despite the excellence of Cory Bradford, the Big Ten Freshman of the Year and an all-league tournament pick, this group might have set guard play back a few decades. Even as they raced to the league tournament title game, the last-place Illini recorded 194 more turnovers than assists. That's an embarrassing fact. This was the gang that couldn't shoot or pass straight. Things got so bad last season, Kruger experimented with McClain at point guard. Eventually, Bradford ended up at the point, which isn't his true position. When former McDonald's All-American Frank Williams steps in at lead guard on day one of practice, all that changes. A partial qualifier from Peoria, Williams was allowed to work out with the team as a freshman, but he was prohibited by NCAA rules to play. If Williams isn't an extraordinary shooter, he doesn't have to be. Williams averaged 14 points and three assists in the Fighting Illini's seven victories in Australia. Among the backups will be two true freshmen, Sean Harrington and point guard Jerrance Howard.

Key to success: It's hard to remember a team that comes into the season with such great expectations after accomplishing so little the year before. Unlike upstart Ohio State last season, Illinois will go into the season with a huge target on its back. Though they finished in the cellar last season, the Illini will sneak up on no one. The experts and fans might think the Illini can hang with favorites Michigan State and Ohio State. So far, though, they haven't shown they can do that for an entire season. To live up to their clippings, they must retain the fierce underdog mentality.

Outlook: The last time Kruger took a team to Australia, that team went to the Final Four. The year was 1993-94, and the team was Florida. Mere coincidence? Of course, but a lot of people think optimistically that it can happen again. The Fighting Illini lost 13 games by six points or fewer. The presence of Williams alone will be enough to reverse those numbers. The Big Ten schedule should work in their favor. The Illini don't travel to Purdue or Indiana, and they face Michigan State only once, on the road.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

A home of his own: *McClain (right) will get to specialize at small forward and find a good comfort level after playing every position but center last season*

Fighting Illini DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Lon Kruger (59-38, 3 years; 296-223 overall, 17 years; 10-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-18. Big Ten: 3-13/11th.
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Champaign-Urbana, Ill.
Home court: Assembly Hall (16,450).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F	Robert Archibald	6-10	So.	2.4	2.7	0.8	34.3	78.9	—
13	G	Cory Bradford*	6-2	So.	15.4	2.6	1.9	38.7	67.8	41.5
32	F	Cleotis Brown*	6-4	Sr.	9.2	4.8	1.4	38.2	61.6	31.3
00	F	Victor Chukwudebe*	6-7	Sr.	5.6	4.9	0.5	44.6	62.9	00.0
34	F	Brian Cook	6-10	Fr.	Kruger's 3rd straight McDonald's All-Am. recruit.					
12	G	Joe Cross	6-1	Jr.	Walk-on will be eligible after the first semester.					
52	C/F	Marcus Griffin	6-9	Jr.	Former Illinois prep star has top credentials.					
24	G	Sean Harrington	6-3	Fr.	Finalist for Illinois' Mr. Basketball last season.					
25	G	Jerrance Howard	6-1	Fr.	Won't see a lot of action behind Bradford.					
22	F	Lucas Johnson	6-7	So.	4.4	3.1	1.5	32.7	76.7	30.0
33	F	Damir Krupalija	6-8	So.	4.6	5.5	1.0	47.9	64.2	33.3
5	G	Nate Mast	5-10	Jr.	2.6	0.7	1.3	50.0	62.5	47.1
40	F	Sergio McClain*	6-3	Jr.	8.6	3.4	2.6	37.5	60.7	20.7
30	G	Frank Williams	6-3	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Rich Beyers	6-8	3.9	1.8	0.9	36.2	100.0	22.2
G	Arias Davis	6-2	3.1	0.7	0.5	31.0	—	25.6
C	Fess Hawkins*	6-9	6.3	5.1	0.6	47.0	61.8	—

4. Purdue

NATIONAL RANK 19

Schedule

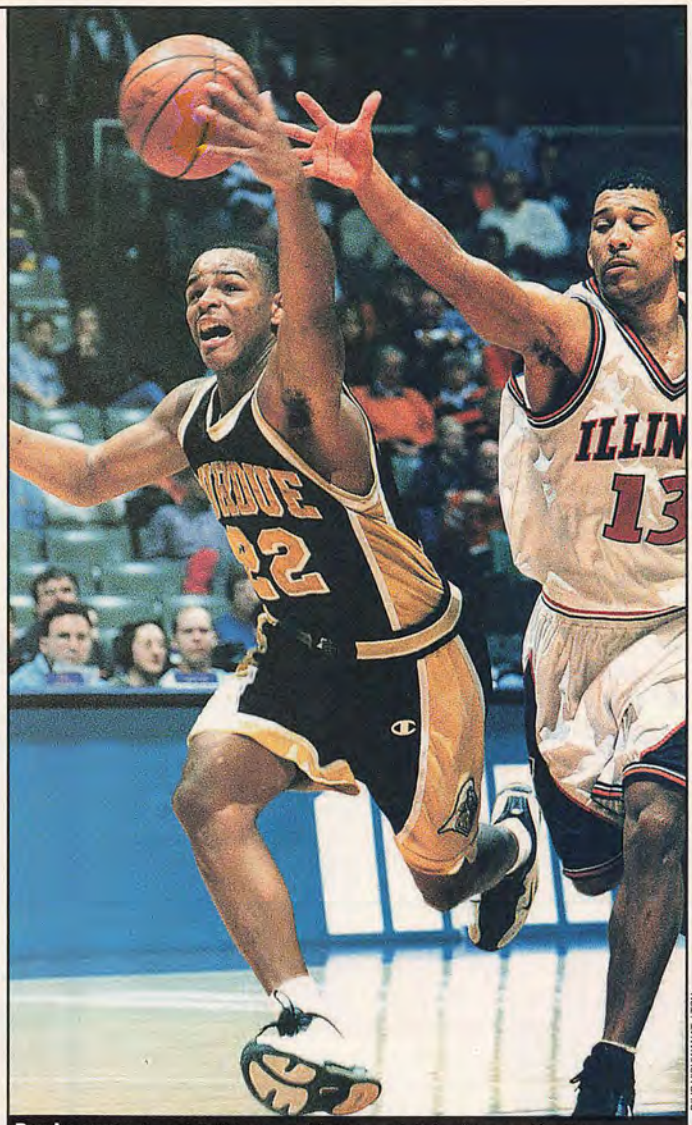
N22-24 Maui Classic
D1 North Carolina State
D4 Akron
D7 at Illinois State
D9 Western Illinois
D11 Coppin State
D18 Ball State*
D22 Central Michigan
D27 at Santa Clara
D30 at UCLA
J3 Murray State
J8 Michigan
J12 at Illinois
J15 Wisconsin
J19 at Minnesota
J22 Indiana
J26 at Wisconsin
J29 at Ohio State
F2 Northwestern
F5 at Iowa
F8 Michigan State
F12 at Northwestern
F16 Iowa
F19 Minnesota
F24 at Michigan
F27 Penn State
F29 at Indiana
*Indianapolis

Frontcourt: Where did all the big guys go? Last year at this time, coach Gene Keady was running a surplus of 6-7 and 6-8 players. Now he can find barely enough to fill out the front line. Cameron Stephens is gone, at least until he gets his academics straight in junior college. Gary McQuay was constantly in the doghouse and finally transferred. Jamaal Davis bolted to a JC at midseason. The only truly big lug on the team is 6-10 sophomore John Allison, who gained 30 pounds from last season and is up to 235. Is he ready for the Big Ten after averaging less than four minutes a game last season? Keady hopes so. Allison was expected to battle Greg McQuay, the older McQuay brother, for the center job, but McQuay played with heart and hustle after arriving from a JC and kept the job. However, at 6-7, he's frequently overmatched. The only sure thing on this team is Brian Cardinal, who comes off a slightly disappointing season. His shooting fell off. Though he played three minutes more a game, he scored less. Cardinal helped redeem himself in NCAA Tournament victories over Miami (Fla.) and Texas, but he'll be expected to keep it going. The only small forward on the team is Mike Robinson, who had a miserable season in 1998-99 after being named to the Big Ten's all-tournament team the year before.

Backcourt: Jaraan Cornell, a third-team all-conference pick last season, is one of the best shooters in the league. Last season, he was Purdue's only consistent outside threat. Point guard is the problem area. Alan Eldridge was a tough defender, but he and Tony Mayfield spent too much of their senior seasons clanking 3-pointers. This was the worst 3-point-shooting team in the league. Junior Carson Cunningham will get a chance to replace Eldridge. Cunningham presents different problems—for his team and the opposition. He can shoot, penetrate and create. Unfortunately, he also can turn over the ball and play out of control with the best of them. Sophomore Maynard Lewis played on the Big Ten team that traveled to Australia; the experience can't hurt.

Key to success: During the Big Ten season, this team might have had the worst chemistry in the conference. If somebody wasn't being benched for showing up late to practice, someone else was pouting over lack of playing time or neglecting his classwork. The great Keady teams of the past had great esprit de corps. Somewhere in the middle of last season, the Boilermakers lost that loving feeling. They managed to get it back toward the end of the season, but they will have to hang on to it tight to avoid a relapse.

Outlook: Top recruiter Frank Kendrick has exiled himself to a job at the Memorial Union while the school appeals NCAA penalties that focus on his involvement. The sanctions won't hurt this year's team, but the loss of scholarships will be felt later. Returning now is the core of the group that beat Gonzaga, St. John's, Xavier, Illinois State, Valparaiso and South Carolina to climb as high as seventh in the coaches' poll last year. Alas, this also is the same group that fell from the rankings after going 7-9 in the Big Ten. It was Purdue's first sub-.500 league finish since 1992. Somehow, the Boilermakers went from scoring 83.7 points a game the year before to 68.4—with nearly the same cast. Keady doesn't suffer underachieving teams gladly, so don't be shocked if the Boilers bounce back.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Bombs away: *Cornell (left) has everything covered at shooting guard for the Boilermakers. He'll be counted on from outside. The problem is at the point.*

Boilermakers DATA

Coach: Gene Keady (415-181, 19 years; 453-200 overall, 21 years; 15-16 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-13. Big Ten: 7-9/7th. Lost to Temple in NCAA East regional semifinals.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.
Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Home court: Mackey Arena (14,123).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
54	C	John Allison	6-10	So.	1.0	0.8	0.09	55.0	69.2	00.0
35	F	Brian Cardinal*	6-8	Sr.	11.4	5.5	2.4	48.0	77.6	37.4
22	G	Jaraan Cornell*	6-3	Sr.	15.2	2.8	2.1	40.6	78.9	34.7
43	G	Carson Cunningham*	6-1	Jr.	6.6	1.3	1.2	41.4	79.7	40.6
12	G	Maynard Lewis	6-1	So.	1.2	0.5	0.13	38.2	50.0	26.7
	G	Kenny Lowe	6-3	Fr.	Nearly 23 points per game in high school.					
32	C	Greg McQuay	6-7	Sr.	10.5	5.3	0.8	56.8	53.4	00.0
23	F	Mike Robinson	6-6	Sr.	7.1	3.6	1.4	44.6	68.8	20.0
31	F	Rodney Smith	6-6	So.	1.1	0.8	0.17	26.5	63.6	00.0
	C	Adam Wetzel	6-9	Fr.	Adds some serious bulk to the front line.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Alan Eldridge*	6-1	6.8	2.8	2.3	36.1	68.1	25.2
G	Tony Mayfield	6-1	2.7	1.4	1.9	32.4	65.2	27.0
C	Gary McQuay	6-7	Transferred to Florida Atlantic.					
F	Cameron Stephens	6-8	Transferred to Vincennes University.					

5. Indiana

NATIONAL RANK 29

Frontcourt: The frontliner who will look the most imposing at the airport is 6-11, 220-pound George Leach, a left-handed, shot-eating center from Charlotte who averaged 17 points, 12 rebounds and nine blocks a game as a high school senior. One player whose influence was felt as a second-year freshman was Kirk Haston, who had a sneaky-good season. There was nothing sneaky about those 27 points against George Washington in the NCAA Tournament, though.

Backcourt: A.J. Guyton, a second-team All-Big Ten pick, decided not to turn pro, which was a huge relief to Hoosiers fans after Luke Recker transferred to Arizona. Without Recker, Guyton will be asked to carry even more of the scoring load. He'll team with steady but unspectacular Michael Lewis and sophomore Dane Fife, a McDonald's All-American who didn't play like one as a freshman.

Key to success: Indiana used to be synonymous with tight man-to-man defense. In the conference season, the Hoosiers ranked last in defense, giving up 73.6 points a game. Contrast that with the 56.8 points per game Wisconsin allowed. A negative rebounding margin didn't help, either. No question, Indiana needs to buckle down and D up.

Outlook: Can it be? Six seasons have passed since Indiana won a Big Ten title? Well, make it seven. Although the Hoosiers won't contend for the regular-season championship, they will make the dance again. And they'll do it without Recker, who didn't add much in the way of defense, anyway. Indiana's 25-point loss to St. John's was its worst NCAA Tournament defeat.

Hoosiers DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Bob Knight (641-231, 28 years; 743-281 overall, 34 years; 41-19 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1976, '81, '87.)
1998-99 record: 23-11, Big Ten: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to St. John's in NCAA South 2nd round.
Last league title: 1993.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.
Site: Bloomington, Ind.
Home court: Assembly Hall (17,357).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Tom Coverdale	6-2	Fr.	Likely to redshirt with experienced backcourt.					
11	G	Dane Fife	6-4	So.	3.3	2.1	1.5	45.0	68.3	24.3
53	F	Tom Geyer	6-8	So.	1.0	0.7	0.3	33.3	75.0	00.0
25	G	A.J. Guyton*	6-1	Sr.	16.0	3.4	2.6	45.5	75.5	40.6
35	F/C	Kirk Haston*	6-10	So.	9.9	6.5	0.8	51.4	74.7	36.4
32	G/F	Kyle Hornsby	6-5	Fr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
12	G	Luke Jimenez	6-3	Sr.	1.4	0.8	0.9	36.8	47.1	33.3
	F	George Leach	6-11	Fr.	Averaged nine blocks per game in high school.					
24	G	Michael Lewis	6-1	Sr.	6.1	1.8	4.6	51.8	78.9	34.9
	F	Kei Madison	6-8	Fr.	Will push Leach and Newton for playing time.					
	F	Jeffrey Newton	6-9	Fr.	Averaged 22 points per game in high school.					
43	F	Jarrod Odle	6-8	So.	3.1	1.7	0.2	38.2	53.8	33.3
10	G	Antwaan Randle El	5-11	So.	1.5	0.7	1.0	36.8	0.0	28.6
33	F	Larry Richardson*	6-8	Sr.	4.5	2.5	0.3	50.5	58.8	00.0
44	F	Lynn Washington	6-7	Sr.	4.1	3.2	0.5	44.1	57.9	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht..	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	William Gladness*	6-8	7.8	4.4	1.6	56.3	64.2	50.0
G	Luke Recker*	6-6	Transferred to Arizona.					
G	Rob Turner	6-4	7.3	2.8	1.8	48.3	76.7	31.3

Schedule

N19 at Texas Tech
N26 Temple
N30 Notre Dame
D4 Kentucky
D7 at Missouri
D10-11 Indiana Classic
D18 Wyoming
D21 North Carolina
D27-28 Hoosier Classic
J5 Wisconsin
J8 at Penn State
J11 at Michigan State
J15 Minnesota
J18 Iowa
J22 at Purdue
J25 Michigan
F2 Penn State
F5 at Northwestern
F9 at Minnesota
F13 at Michigan
F19 Ohio State
F22 at Illinois
F26 Michigan State
F29 Purdue
M4 at Wisconsin

6. Wisconsin

NATIONAL RANK 43

Frontcourt: Not much style here, but oodles of substance. The Badgers might not have a legitimate first-team All-Big Ten candidate or a true center, but they have size, experience and as sturdy a junior class as you'll find in college basketball. They're all about 6-8 or 6-9, they all weigh about 230 pounds and they all can contribute. Andy Kowske might have been the top performer on the Big Ten team that toured Austria over the summer. And this was a unit that featured all-Big Ten guard Dean Oliver and Duke transfer Mike Chappell.

Backcourt: With Sean Mason and Ty Calderwood gone, Badgers fans finally will see whether Mike Kelley is more than just a free safety in shorts. Sophomore Travon Davis, the quickest, most creative player on the team, will play backup. The 2-guard is far from settled. Jon Bryant, a transfer from St. Cloud State, can play the position but could be pressed by junior-college transfer Roy Boone.

Key to success: Just when you think the Badgers can't tilt any further to the defensive side of the court, they score 32 points in an NCAA Tournament loss. Yes, the football team scored six more points in the Rose Bowl. With Wisconsin, there's no such thing as an easy basket—on either side of the court. It's simply way too easy to lose faith in Wisconsin's structured offense. Dick Bennett must find a way to change that.

Outlook: As valuable as they were, Calderwood never really bought into Bennett's system and Mason was an awfully low-key leader. If Kelley and company do an adequate job replacing them, this will be a first-division team again.

Badgers DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Dick Bennett (69-54, 4 years; 429-243 overall, 23 years; 2-4 NCAA Tourn. record).
1998-99 record: 22-10. Big Ten: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Southwest Missouri State in NCAA East 1st round.
Last league title: 1947.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Madison, Wis.
Home court: Kohl Center (17,142).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	G	Roy Boone	6-2	Jr.	Community college transfer.					
10	G	Jon Bryant	6-2	Sr.	6.3	1.3	0.54	44.7	80.0	38.7
4	G	Travon Davis	5-10	So.	1.1	0.6	0.5	16.7	50.0	50.0
3	G	Duany Duany	6-5	Sr.	2.5	0.9	0.23	41.9	70.0	36.0
22	G	Mike Kelley*	6-3	Jr.	4.4	2.7	2.68	47.9	75.4	21.4
15	F	Andy Kowske*	6-8	Jr.	6.0	4.9	0.31	57.4	44.2	00.0
30	F	Maurice Linton	6-8	Jr.	2.3	2.3	0.93	43.3	72.7	00.0
	F/C	Dave Mader	6-11	Fr.	Wisconsin native adds bulk up front.					
14	G	John Moriarity	6-5	So.	0.6	0.4	0.14	66.7	00.0	00.0
20	G	Kirk Penney	6-5	Fr.	New Zealand native brings scoring punch.					
21	F	Robert Smith	6-8	Jr.	Transferred from UW-Whitewater.					
42	F	Julian Swartz	6-6	Fr.	Player of the Year in Wisconsin.					
50	F	Mark Vershaw*	6-9	Jr.	7.2	3.0	1.75	45.4	81.3	00.0
40	F	Charlie Wills	6-8	So.	4.5	3.3	0.65	53.1	76.9	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Ty Calderwood*	6-0	9.3	2.9	3.3	39.6	78.9	33.3
G	Sean Mason*	6-2	16.8	4.3	1.9	38.7	81.1	37.5
G	Hennssy Auriantal	6-1	3.8	1.4	1.37	36.1	70.0	34.5
G	David Burkemper	6-1	0.7	0.4	0.22	66.7	25.0	100.0

Schedule

N12-13 NABC Classic
N20 Ball State
N23 at Wis.-Milwaukee
N30 Wake Forest*
D3 Rhode Island
D7 Texas
D8 Wis.-Green Bay
D11 at South Florida
D14 at Northern Illinois
D23 Marquette
D29 Temple
J5 at Indiana
J8 Illinois
J13 Ohio State
J15 at Purdue
J19 at Penn State
J22 Minnesota
J26 Purdue
J29 Iowa
F2 at Ohio State
F5 at Minnesota
F12 Michigan State
F16 Michigan
F19 at Michigan State
F23 at Iowa
M1 at Northwestern
M4 Indiana
*Chicago

7. Michigan

NATIONAL RANK 57

Frontcourt: Sooner or later, Josh Asselin will be joined on the front line by LaVell Blanchard, the ballyhooed player from Ann Arbor who helped put Brian Ellerbe's recruiting class in the top five nationally. Peter Vignier, the only senior on the team, started all 31 games and won't be pushed out of the lineup without a fight. Leland Anderson, a 6-8 freshman from Massachusetts, will come in throwing his 265 pounds around.

Backcourt: Here's where all the doubts lie. NBA draft pick Louis Bullock and his mate, Robbie Reid, accounted for 52 percent of Michigan's offense. Were they returning, the Wolverines would be a good bet for the NCAA Tournament. Now Michigan will be forced to depend on an inexperienced backcourt. Eventually Kevin Gaines of Las Vegas, Jamal Crawford of Washington and Gavin Groninger of Indiana will be ready for the responsibility. Right now, though, at least two of the freshmen could see more of the court than they're prepared to see.

Key to success: The newcomers. As they go, so go the Wolverines. Nobody is expecting another Fab Five, but the sooner this group adjusts to life in the Big Time, the further Michigan will advance. The newcomers could be the death or the saving grace of this team.

Outlook: Asselin has been a pleasant surprise. Blanchard is the top-rated freshman in the Big Ten, hands down. There's talent everywhere you look and reason to hope. Don't be too surprised if the Wolverines are sitting on the bubble in early March. Their NCAA Tournament hopes could hinge on a good run in the Big Ten tournament.

Wolverines DATA

Coach: Brian Ellerbe (37-28, 2 years; 71-75 overall, 5 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-19. Big Ten: 5-11/T9th.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Home court: Crisler Arena (13,560).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
50	F	Leland Anderson	6-8	Fr.	Scored 1,629 points in high school career.					
25	F/C	Josh Asselin*	6-11	Jr.	8.9	5.9	0.7	54.3	66.9	00.0
30	G/F	LaVell Blanchard	6-7	Fr.	Gatorade National Player of the Year.					
1	G	Jamal Crawford	6-6	Fr.	Two-time Mr. Basketball winner in Washington.					
2	G	Kevin Gaines	6-4	Fr.	Nevada Player of the Year.					
23	G/F	Gavin Groninger	6-5	Fr.	Runner-up for Mr. Basketball in Indiana.					
0	G/F	Leon Jones	6-4	So.	4.3	1.7	1.2	28.7	76.9	19.6
34	F	Brandon Smith*	6-7	Jr.	8.3	3.7	2.1	44.3	65.0	22.6
10	F	Darius Taylor	6-4	Sr.	0.7	0.6	0.16	30.8	00.0	00.0
55	C	Peter Vignier*	6-11	Sr.	6.5	7.4	0.74	47.7	72.5	00.0
45	F	Chris Young	6-9	So.	2.6	3.4	0.2	49.2	52.8	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Robbie Reid*	6-2	13.5	3.4	3.09	39.1	82.5	38.7
G	Louis Bullock*	6-2	20.7	4.1	2.32	41.0	86.4	37.7
G	Ron Oliver	6-1	0.6	0.6	0.56	26.3	83.3	00.0
F	Erik Szyndlar	6-6	0.9	0.4	0.0	40.0	60.0	50.0

Schedule

N19	Oakland	D19	at Boston College	J22	at Iowa
N23	Detroit	D23	Duquesne	J25	at Indiana
N27	Western Michigan	D28	Towson	F1	Michigan State
D1	at Georgia Tech	J2	St. Peter's	F6	Ohio State
D4	UT-Chattanooga	J5	at Minnesota	F9	at Illinois
D8	Kent	J8	at Purdue	F13	Indiana
D11	Duke	J16	Illinois	F16	at Wisconsin
		J19	Northwestern	F19	Penn State
				F24	Purdue
				F26	at Northwestern
				F29	Iowa
				M4	at Michigan State

8. Iowa

NATIONAL RANK 74

Frontcourt: Sucked dry with the losses of sixth-year senior Jess Settles, NBA draft pick J.R. Koch, center Guy Rucker, transfer Sam Okey and talented freshman wing Joey Range. New coach Steve Alford dipped into the junior colleges for Rob Griffin and Joe Fermino, but two for five isn't such a good swap. Griffin and Fermino make up the recruiting class, so Hawkeyes fans can forget about another third-place finish.

Backcourt: Dean Oliver, Dean Oliver and more Dean Oliver. Back after a redshirt year, honor student Kyle Galloway will try to follow Kent McCausland's act from 3-point land, but it won't be easy. Ryan Luehrsmann will fill in at the 1-slot with Jason Price and contend with Galloway at off-guard. Mostly, though, the backcourt belongs to Oliver, a third-team All-Big Ten choice as a sophomore. Actually, the whole team is his.

Key to success: The Hawkeyes will need a huge year from Griffin, a Michigan native who comes from Southeastern Community College in nearby Burlington.

Outlook: A year's worth of coaching uncertainty severely hobbled Alford's first recruiting season. Still, Iowa fans have gone ga-ga over the former Hoosier from Southwest Missouri State, who matched former coach Tom Davis win for win in the NCAA Tournament. He certainly has the sizzle. Now he must find the steak. Four of Iowa's top five players from last year are gone, with little in the way of replacements. Alford has a gaggle of recruits lined up for the next year, but he'll have to be a magician to get this team into the postseason. Add a brutal schedule, and you have a team that will be lucky to sniff the NIT.

Hawkeyes DATA

Coach: Steve Alford (first year; 156-77 overall, 8 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-10. Big Ten: 9-7/T3rd. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA West regional semifinal.
Last league title: 1979.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Iowa City, Iowa.
Home court: Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
13	F	Joe Fermino	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from community college.					
30	G	Kyle Galloway	6-5	So.	1.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	00.0	50.0
15	F	Marcelo Gomes	6-6	Sr.	1.0	0.5	0.0	100.0	00.0	00.0
1	F	Rob Griffin	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from community college.					
23	F	Duez Henderson	6-7	So.	2.0	1.3	0.16	45.7	62.1	25.0
14	C	Jacob Jaacks	6-8	Sr.	6.8	4.3	0.8	52.5	64.3	37.1
24	G	Ryan Luehrsmann	6-1	Sr.	5.8	2.4	2.48	45.2	69.6	38.3
20	G	Dean Oliver*	5-11	Jr.	11.9	3.5	4.53	40.1	71.6	36.7
11	G	Jason Price	6-0	Sr.	1.1	0.8	0.77	20.7	73.9	00.0
42	C	Antonio Ramos	7-2	So.	0.7	0.3	0.33	100.0	00.0	00.0
43	G	Jason Smith	6-3	Jr.	0.4	0.3	0.11	40.0	00.0	00.0
25	F	Rod Thompson	6-6	So.	1.0	0.4	0.0	42.9	50.0	50.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Jason Bauer*	6-3	2.6	2.5	1.76	43.5	77.5	37.5
F/C	J.R. Koch*	6-10	10.4	3.5	0.63	52.5	74.7	38.7
G	Kent McCausland*	6-3	8.6	1.6	1.4	46.3	85.7	42.1
F	Jess Settles*	6-7	9.8	4.8	1.64	43.6	78.3	34.8
F	Sam Okey	6-7	6.6	3.1	1.14	53.6	64.0	00.0
G	Joey Range	6-5	Transferred to junior college.					
C	Guy Rucker	6-10	6.7	3.9	0.44	47.9	60.7	00.0

Schedule

N11-12	Coaches vs. Cancer Classic	D7	at Northern Iowa	J18	at Indiana
N21	Eastern Illinois	D11	at Iowa State	J22	Michigan
N27	Creighton	D18	at Missouri	J26	Illinois
N30	Maryland*	D28	Drake	J29	at Wisconsin
D3-4	Hawkeye Invitational	J5	Northwestern	F3	Kansas
		J8	Michigan State	F5	Purdue
		J12	at Minnesota	F9	at Ohio State
		J15	at Penn State	F12	at Illinois
				F16	at Purdue
				F23	Wisconsin
				F27	Minnesota
				F29	at Michigan
				M4	Penn State
				*Chicago	

9. Penn State

NATIONAL RANK 89

Frontcourt: Since Penn State joined the Big Ten, the one worry it hasn't had was center. First came John Amaechi, then Calvin Booth. Now comes ... who? Good question. There are some suspects who can fill the paint, if not the shoes, of Amaechi and Booth, a second-round NBA draft pick. There's Carl Jackson, a 6-9 senior, and Scott Witkowsky, a 7-foot junior. There's Stephan Bekale, a 6-9 redshirt freshman. No one is a sure thing, to say the least. Don't be surprised if the Nittany Lions play without a true center for the first time since the early '90s.

Backcourt: Joe Crispin is one of the most underrated players in the Big Ten. But not in his mind. There isn't a shot Crispin thinks he can't hit. And he's probably right. Imagine two Crispins in the backcourt. It could happen when freshman Jon Crispin joins his older brother this year. With Dan Earl gone, Joe moves to the point, a position more suited to his size and talents. Some say he should have been there last year.

Key to success: Jarrett Stephens was averaging 13.9 points a game two seasons ago when his knee went poof in the Nittany Lions' NIT semifinal victory over Georgia. He tried to come back the next season, but he decided to take a medical redshirt after two games. Will he have the same explosiveness? Probably not, but Stephens playing below the rim is better than no Stephens at all.

Outlook: If the Nittany Lions can finish in a tie for ninth with All-Big Ten performers Booth and Earl in the lineup, they can finish in a tie for ninth with two Crispins and a questionable Stephens on the roster.

Nittany Lions DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jerry Dunn (63-51, 4 years; 63-51 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record.)
1998-99 record: 13-14. Big Ten: 5-13/9th.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: State College, Pa.
Home court: Bryce Jordan Center (15,621).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F/C	Stephan Bekale	6-9	Fr.	Redshirted during the 1998-99 season.					
23	F	Gyasi Cline-Heard*	6-7	Jr.	7.6	5.3	0.70	56.8	58.3	00.0
3	G	Joe Crispin*	6-1	Jr.	14.3	2.7	3.33	39.5	90.5	35.6
5	G	Jon Crispin	6-2	Fr.	Joins brother Joe to form dynamic duo.					
44	F	Ndu Egekeze	6-7	Fr.	Georgia native expected to help out up front.					
33	G	Titus Ivory*	6-4	Jr.	8.3	4.2	3.59	41.9	77.8	33.3
54	F/C	Carl Jackson	6-9	Sr.	1.9	2.2	1.11	38.3	53.8	00.0
4	G	Ken Krimmel	6-3	So.	0.9	0.2	0.75	50.0	100.0	33.3
20	G	Tim McGovern	6-0	Sr.	0.7	0.3	0.0	100.0	00.0	00.0
14	F	Pete Rogowski	6-6	Jr.	1.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	00.0	00.0
35	F	Tyler Smith	6-8	So.	1.0	1.3	0.44	36.7	50.0	44.4
31	F	Jarrett Stephens	6-7	Sr.	4.0	2.0	0.50	37.5	40.0	00.0
34	F	B.J. Vossekuil	6-9	Fr.	Another big body to help fill rebounding void.					
11	G	Brandon Watkins	6-0	Fr.	Went to same high school as Isiah Thomas.					
45	C	Scott Witkowsky	7-0	Jr.	0.7	0.5	0.04	46.2	80.0	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Calvin Booth*	6-11	15.3	8.7	0.88	51.3	77.5	00.0
G	Dan Earl*	6-4	13.4	2.7	4.11	46.2	77.9	38.3
G	Greg Grays	6-0	6.0	1.7	1.81	35.0	87.2	33.7

Schedule

N22 Lehigh
N24 Loyola (Md.)
N27 Boston College
D1 Clemson
D4 at Penn
D8 George Mason
D11 at Villanova
D19 Bucknell
D22 at Temple
D28-29 Fiesta Bowl Holiday Classic
J5 at Michigan State
J8 Indiana
J13 at Northwestern
J15 Iowa
J19 Wisconsin
J22 at Illinois
J26 Minnesota
F2 at Indiana
F6 Illinois
F12 at Ohio State
F16 Northwestern
F19 at Michigan
F23 Michigan State
F27 at Purdue
M1 Ohio State
M4 at Iowa

10. Minnesota

NATIONAL RANK 110

Frontcourt: The winds of academic scandal have scattered almost everyone else, but Joel Przybilla remains. If new coach Dan Monson had to pick one player he would want back for the rebuilding process, it would have to be the 7-1 center from Monticello, Minn. Clem Haskins brought the big guy around slowly, but Monson will have to fast-forward his development if the Gophers are going to be anything more than a doormat this season. Third-team All-American Quincy Lewis is off to the NBA. Rebounding specialist Miles Tarver is off to wherever. That's a lot of rebounding and scoring to make up. Former Colorado prep of the year John-Blair Bickerstaff (son of former NBA coach Bernie) was a starter at Oregon State before transferring.

Backcourt: What backcourt? Do you see a backcourt anywhere?

Key to success: The development of all the youngsters. That's a pretty decent recruiting class Haskins left for Monson. Forward Mike Bauer (a top-50 prospect), swingman Shane Schilling and center Ryan Wildenborg honored their commitments. It won't be easy attracting a similar class next year with possible NCAA sanctions on the way, so Monson will have to make good use of this one.

Outlook: Grim. The captains for the season are Bickerstaff and Kyle Sanden. Bickerstaff has never played for the Gophers, and Sanden, a forward-center, averaged 2.9 points a game as a sophomore. Monson escorted upstart Gonzaga within one game of the Final Four. If he gets the Gophers that close sometime in the next 10 years without igniting another scandal, he's a budding legend.

Gophers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Dan Monson (first year; 52-17 overall, two years; 3-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-11. Big Ten: 8-8/6th. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA West 1st round.
Last league title: 1997.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Minneapolis.
Home court: Williams Arena (14,625).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
54	C/F	John Aune	6-9	So.	0.8	1.3	0.25	33.3	33.3	00.0
41	F	Mike Bauer	6-8	Fr.	Is expected to make an immediate impact.					
32	F	John-Blair Bickerstaff	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Oregon State.					
40	C	Antoine Broxsie	6-10	Jr.	1.8	1.6	0.37	52.5	75.0	00.0
12	G	Kevin Burleson	6-3	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
25	F	Greg Halbert	6-8	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
21	G	Ryan Keating	5-11	So.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	50.0	00.0
13	G/F	Kevin Nathaniel*	6-5	Jr.	4.0	3.1	2.25	39.6	52.0	33.3
11	G	Mitch Ohnstad	6-2	Jr.	6.1	1.4	2.67	42.1	57.1	34.4
50	C	Joel Przybilla*	7-1	So.	6.7	5.8	1.46	56.0	57.7	00.0
45	F	Dusty Rychart	6-7	So.	3.8	2.8	0.47	46.0	73.3	00.0
51	F/C	Kyle Sanden	6-11	Jr.	2.9	1.7	0.62	44.4	52.6	37.5
34	G/F	Shane Schilling	6-6	Fr.	Could be a key swingman right away.					
23	G	Terrance Simmons	6-3	Jr.	2.8	1.8	1.8	35.7	16.7	27.6
4	F	Nick Sinville	6-6	So.	1.2	1.2	0.18	61.5	30.0	00.0
3	G	Terry Smith-Harris	6-4	Sr.	Transferred from Chicago State.					
33	C	Ryan Wildenborg	6-11	Fr.	Hopes to add some scoring up front.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Kevin Clark*	6-2	14.7	3.8	2.46	46.0	77.3	39.6
F	Quincy Lewis*	6-7	23.1	5.9	1.4	45.7	81.1	39.8
F	Miles Tarver*	6-8	5.0	7.1	1.84	43.0	69.2	00.0
F	Jason Stanford	6-7	0.9	0.8	0.38	36.8	100.0	33.3

Schedule

N20 Texas-Arlington
N27 Morehead St.
N30 Virginia
D4 Valparaiso
D8 Marquette
D14 Maine
D18 Oregon
D28 Georgia
D31 Nebraska
J5 Michigan
J9 at Ohio State
J12 Iowa
J15 at Indiana
J19 Purdue
J22 at Wisconsin
J26 at Penn State
J29 Northwestern
F2 at Illinois
F5 Wisconsin
F9 Indiana
F17 Illinois
F19 at Purdue
F27 at Iowa
F29 at Michigan St.
M4 Ohio State

11. Northwestern

NATIONAL RANK 135

Frontcourt: Evan Eschmeyer, a second-team All-American, was everything to the Wildcats. Averaging 19.6 points and 10.1 rebounds, he led the league in rebounding and field-goal percentage while finishing fourth in scoring and blocked shots. He even led Northwestern in turnovers. But he's gone and life moves on—barely. Aron Molnar, at 6-11, is as big as Eschmeyer but not as talented. Aaron Jennings and Adam Robinson, two rookies from Iowa, will lend height to the front line but not much girth. Sophomore Steve Lepore had a great run with the silver medal-winning U.S. Junior World team. He will contend for one of the starting wing jobs. He's the leading returning rebounder, which at 4.3 a game is a little scary.

Backcourt: Sophomore David Newman had a fine rookie season, finishing second in scoring and minutes played. Junior Sean Wink cannot be left alone from beyond the arc. Are they quick enough and strong enough to keep up with the great guards of the Big Ten? It's highly doubtful.

Key to success: The Wildcats haven't posted consecutive winning seasons since 1968-69. We'll be saying the same thing a year from now. After Eschmeyer, no scorers averaged in double figures last season. Only four players averaged more than five points a game. The offense has to come from somewhere, but where? Alas, the same could be said for the rebounding and defense.

Outlook: For now, this is one of the youngest, least experienced teams in the league. In the Big Ten, Northwestern sticks its head above water only with a team full of veterans. That doesn't describe this group.

Wildcats DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Kevin O'Neill (25-31, two years; 147-140 overall, 10 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record.)
1998-99 record: 15-14. Big Ten: 6-10/8th. Lost to DePaul in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1933 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Evanston, Ill.
Home court: Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
3	F	Winston Blake	6-5	Fr.	Plano (Texas) native can play inside or out.					
30	G	Jason Burke	6-6	Fr.	Like fellow Texan Blake, Burke is versatile.					
43	F	Brody Deren	6-7	Fr.	Should challenge for a starting spot immediately.					
32	G	Collier Drayton	6-1	So.	0.0	3.0	1.0	00.0	—	00.0
44	G	Jeff Eschmeyer	6-2	Jr.	0.0	0.5	0.2	00.0	00.0	—
33	F	Tavaras Hardy*	6-8	So.	6.9	3.9	1.8	44.2	34.8	—
55	C	Aaron Jennings	6-11	Fr.	He'll have to bulk up to play in the Big Ten.					
5	G	Ben Johnson	6-3	Fr.	Has the inside track to start at shooting guard.					
10	G	Matt Kammrath	6-0	Sr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	00.0	—	00.0
14	G/F	Steve Lepore	6-5	So.	7.2	4.3	2.5	36.8	85.3	39.1
35	C	Aron Molnar	6-11	Sr.	3.1	2.5	0.4	59.7	50.0	—
24	G	David Newman*	5-11	So.	8.3	2.0	2.7	33.7	81.0	36.9
41	F	Adam Robinson	6-10	Fr.	Like Jennings, he'll need to gain some weight.					
22	G	Sean Wink*	6-2	So.	7.1	1.7	1.3	35.7	70.8	38.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Danny Allouche	6-5	2.8	1.5	1.0	37.0	80.0	31.3
G	Julian Bonner*	6-1	4.4	2.3	2.7	39.3	50.0	44.7
C	Evan Eschmeyer*	6-11	19.6	10.1	2.6	58.4	76.2	—
F	Joe Harmsen	6-9	0.8	1.3	0.3	35.0	20.0	—
G	Napoleon Harris	6-3	2.0	2.0	0.5	20.0	50.0	—
G	Nate Pomeday	6-3	1.4	0.9	0.8	27.3	57.1	30.0

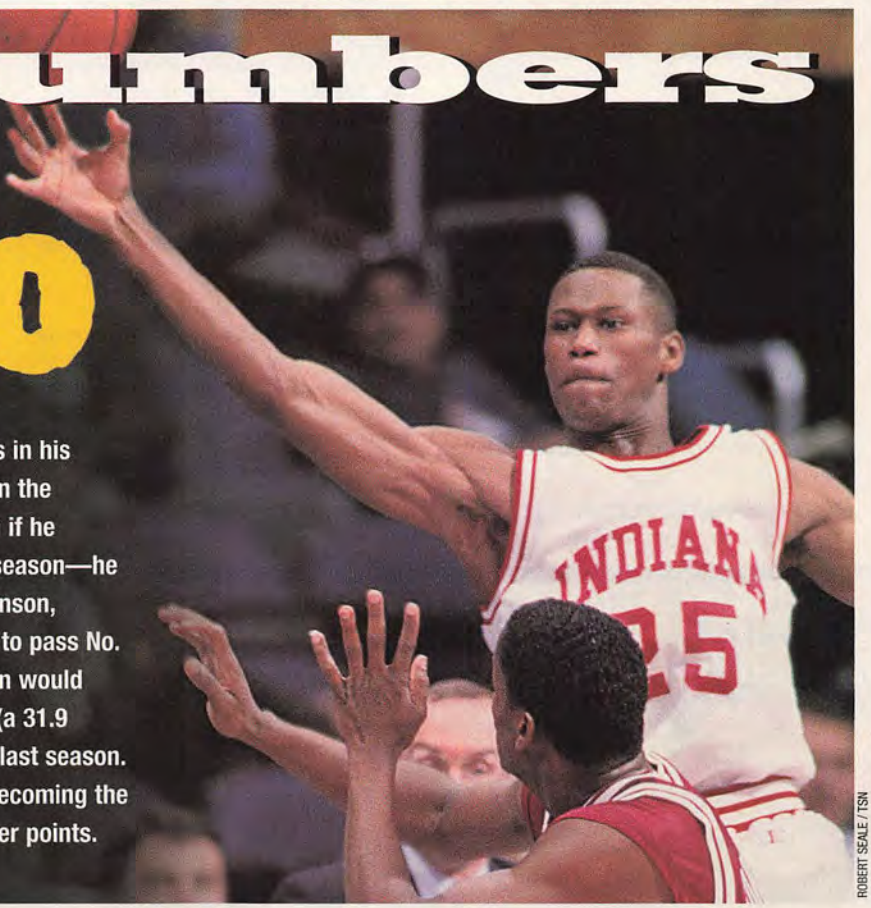
Schedule

N23 Chicago State
N26-28 Hoop & Quill Classic
D1 Florida State*
D4 La Salle
D11 Nicholls State
D14 Jacksonville
D18 Western Carolina
D29 at USC
J2 Oakland
J5 at Iowa
J8 Pepperdine
J13 Penn State
J15 Ohio State
J19 at Michigan
J22 at Michigan St.
J27 Michigan St.
J29 at Minnesota
F2 at Purdue
F5 Indiana
F9 Rice
F12 Purdue
F16 at Penn State
F19 Illinois
F23 at Ohio State
F26 Michigan
M1 Wisconsin
M4 at Illinois
*Chicago

TSNumbers

1,530

That's how many points A.J. Guyton has in his three years at Indiana. Guyton is 14th on the Hoosiers' all-time scoring list, and even if he scores just 543 points—as he did last season—he will pass such IU luminaries as Kent Benson, Damon Bailey and Alan Henderson. But to pass No. 1 Calbert Cheaney (2,613 points), Guyton would have to score 1,084 points this season (a 31.9 average) if IU plays 34 games, as it did last season. We figure Guyton has a better shot at becoming the fifth Hoosier to tally 2,000 or more career points.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Inside dish

Conference USA

RANK 6

ASCENDING: South Florida. The Bulls have two of the nation's most promising sophomores—forwards Altron Jackson and B.B. Waldon—and welcome back versatile 6-10 center Scott Johnson after knee surgery. This team is not without flaws, but it should be adept enough defensively to be a serious NCAA contender.

DESCENDING: Alabama-Birmingham. After making its first NCAA Tournament appearance under coach Murry Bartow, UAB lost nearly 40 points a game and did not sign a marquee recruit. The Blazers have enough solid players to keep from falling far, but they will fall.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Southern Mississippi's Neil Reed. In his only season, Reed attempted 25 percent of the shots, which is how his coaches planned it. He was the only threat for Southern Miss, and replacing him will require an offensive redesign.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Louisville's Tony Williams. Unlike a lot of guys who have worn Cardinals uniforms in recent years, he plays with heart. Playing out of position at power forward, he was second among the Cardinals in scoring and third in rebounding. How did notorious softies Cameron Murray and Alex Sanders beat him onto the all-league team?

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: DePaul's Bobby Simmons. You may have read about the note Jim Boeheim sent to DePaul's Pat Kennedy: "Simmons = Pippen." Maybe it should have said "Bobby = Richard." Simmons looked slow, shot 37 percent from the field and averaged 8.5 points over the final 17 games. He's extremely skilled but has to get himself into better playing shape.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Memphis' Tic Price. After a solid first season, Price found himself in a crisis when his point guards were disappointing and he made a disastrous decision to (temporarily) move Omar Sneed from the low post. By the end, the Tigers were moving in as many different directions as they had players. Price needs a nice, uneventful year.

BEST BETS: Cincinnati freshman DerMarr Johnson will stick around the city just long enough to discover a distaste for Cincy-style chili. ... Louisville assistants will start making regular recruiting trips to Nigeria if Muhamed Lasege or Benjamin Eze pan out. ... Someone lost in the deluge of talent at Florida will transfer to South Florida and find a home. ... No longer able to introduce themselves as the "World Champions," the Chicago Bulls will fight UIC and Loyola to rank as the second-most popular basketball team in town behind DePaul. ... UNCC freshman guard Demon Brown will have a hard time persuading announcers to pronounce his name "Da-MON."

ODDS AND ENDS: After 6-10 Southern Mississippi beat out three teams with better records for a first-round bye, the league altered the format for its tournament. Now, winners of the American and National divisions will get byes, along with the teams with the next two best records. ... The tournament returns to The Pyramid in Memphis, site of the first C-USA championship. ... As the league begins its fifth year, the only coaches left from the first year are Cincinnati's Bob Huggins, Louisville's Denny Crum and Tulane's Perry Clark. That's a 75 percent turnover. The SEC is the only other league to change so many coaches in that period. ... DePaul won four more league games last season than in its first three seasons in the league combined. ... When a Charlotte radio station conducted a poll of which visiting teams were most hated by the city's fans, Cincinnati was the clear winner.

By Mike DeCourcy *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Predictions

American Division	National Division
1. Cincinnati	1. South Florida
2. DePaul	2. Southern Mississippi
3. Louisville	3. Memphis
4. UNC-Charlotte	4. Houston
5. Marquette	5. Alabama-Birmingham
6. Saint Louis	6. Tulane

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	DerMarr Johnson, Cincinnati	6-9	200	Fr.
G	Quentin Richardson, DePaul	6-6	225	So.
F	Pete Mickeal, Cincinnati	6-6	220	Sr.
C	Kenyon Martin, Cincinnati	6-8	230	Sr.
F	B.B. Waldon, South Florida	6-8	210	So.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Justin Love, Saint Louis	6-2	210	Sr.
G	Gee Gervin, Houston	6-2	170	Sr.
F	Altron Jackson, South Florida	6-6	195	So.
F	Lance Williams, DePaul	6-9	250	So.
F	Tony Williams, Louisville	6-7	210	Sr.

Player of the Year

Quentin Richardson, G, DePaul

Newcomer of the Year

DerMarr Johnson, G, Cincinnati

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Diego Guevara, UNC Charlotte
Best rebounder: Quentin Richardson, DePaul
Best playmaker: Waitari Marsh, Tulane
Best defender: Pete Mickeal, Cincinnati
Best leaper: Marques Maybin, Louisville
Most versatile: Kenyon Martin, Cincinnati
Most flamboyant: Diego Guevara, UNC Charlotte
Best NBA prospect: Quentin Richardson, DePaul

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Cincinnati: Two McDonald's All-Americans in the backcourt.
2. DePaul: Addressed frontcourt needs in second straight impressive haul.
3. Louisville: Center Benjamin Eze might make an impact this year.
4. UNCC. Disappointed not to get Jason Parker; Rodney White will do.
5. Saint Louis: Maurice Jeffers and Marque Perry fit athletic style.
6. Houston: George Williams is one of league's best incoming freshmen.
7. South Florida: In Marlon Dawson, team has point guard it needed.
8. Memphis: Shannon Forman should step into starting lineup.
9. Southern Mississippi: Even with eight new players, still no creative scorer.
10. UAB: Blazers settled for mostly mid-sized JC forwards.
11. Tulane: Question with recruits is how long they'll stick around.
12. Marquette: New coach Tom Crean saved last scholarship for his first full class.

More on Conference USA at sportingnews.com/cbasketball

1. Cincinnati

NATIONAL RANK 2

Schedule

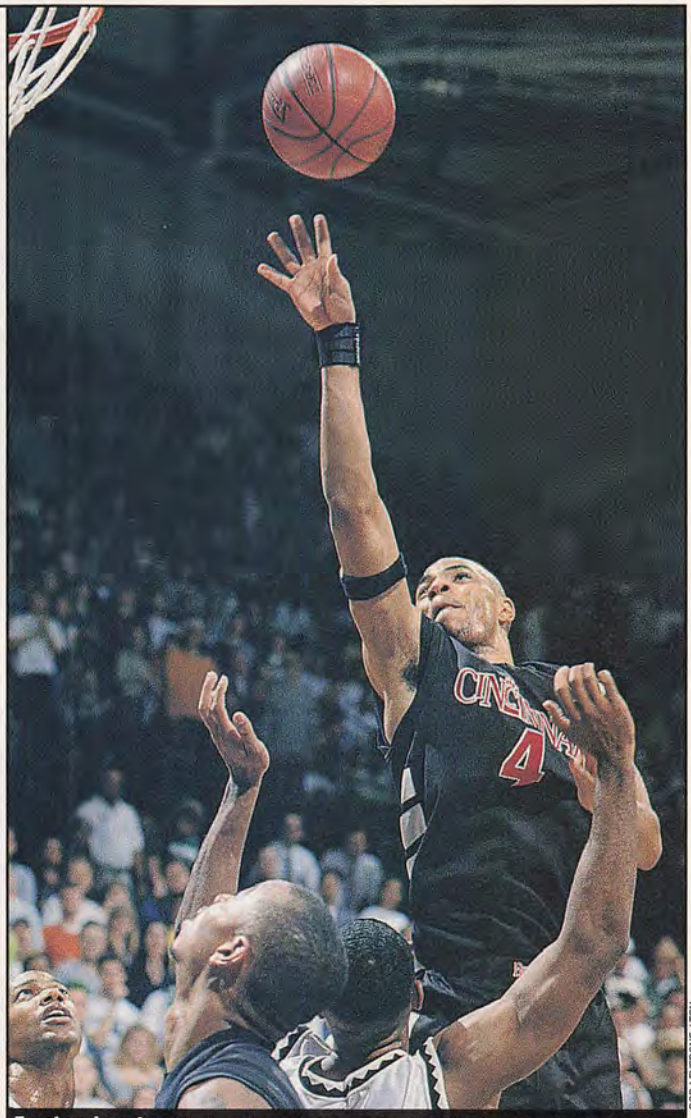
N20 Youngstown State
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D4 at Gonzaga
D8 at North Carolina
D11 Miss. Valley State
D16 at Saint Louis
D18 at Xavier
D22 at Oklahoma
D27 Wis.-Milwaukee
D30 at Boise State
J2 UNLV
J5 UNC-Charlotte
J8 Marquette
J12 at Tulane
J15 at Ohio
J19 Memphis
J23 at Marquette
J27 at Louisville
J29 South Florida
F3 at UNC-Charlotte
F5 at UAB
F13 DePaul
F17 at Houston
F20 Temple
F23 Southern Mississippi
F27 Louisville
M2 at DePaul
M4 Saint Louis

Frontcourt: This front line is as good as gold. On the U.S. team that conquered the World University Games, two of the three leading scorers were Bearcats: center Kenyon Martin and small forward Pete Mickeal. It was a positive step for Martin to shoot so willingly amid a group of all-stars; the problem last season wasn't that he couldn't shoot, but that he wouldn't. He has decent range and excellent form. His shot blocking made him the C-USA defensive player of the year the past two seasons. Mickeal was the Bearcats' most consistent player at both ends last season. Matching up man-to-man against him can be demoralizing, but Mickeal knows he needs to shoot better and more confidently from the perimeter. Bulky Ryan Fletcher began as the power forward but lost the job to the more explosive Jermaine Tate midway through the season. Fletcher was great at consuming space, but when that wasn't enough to keep his job, he began shooting too eagerly when he played off the bench. Tate's lack of offensive ability made it easier for opponents to gang up on Martin in the middle. Both will merit considerable playing time, and sophomore Eugene Land will provide occasional offensive bursts if he can grow into the system. It would not hurt if coach Bob Huggins paid a bit more attention to chemistry. Redshirt freshman Donald Little may merit a look in that sense. Martin did his damage for the U.S. while playing alongside big centers. Perhaps if someone else puts his behind in the post and Martin roams more freely, he'll glitter again.

Backcourt: It's not every year a team challenges for a Final Four berth with a backcourt so heavy in freshmen, but 6-9 DerMarr Johnson and 6-2 Kenny Satterfield are not just any freshmen. Johnson was regarded as the most talented player in his class before questions developed about his willingness to compete. He answered those with a year at Maine Central Institute under demanding coach Max Good. Johnson has shooting range and ballhandling skills and is comfortable in the low post. Huggins insists guarding shooting guards will not be a problem for Johnson; if the opposition is particularly tough there (e.g. DePaul's Quentin Richardson), Mickeal and Johnson could switch assignments. Johnson will not be the team's best player, but it would not be a shock if he led in scoring. Satterfield and 5-10 sophomore Steve Logan are an interesting tandem at point guard. There's not much to dislike about Logan, an excellent 3-point shooter who rarely turns over the ball. But Cincinnati moved too slowly on offense when he was in charge. Satterfield is relatively new to the position and could take some time to think like a point guard, but he penetrates the defense and finishes plays.

Key to success: This team has to find its offensive personality. It often will have four scorers on the floor, but there has to be a greater sense about what it wants to do with the ball. Having a go-to guy can be overrated, but having a purpose on offense is indispensable. A team doesn't reach the Final Four without the ability to generate a basket when it's desperately needed.

Outlook: This team has Final Four ability and will be a disappointment if it doesn't at least come close. If that pressure doesn't unsettle the Bearcats, they should be competitive for the national title.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Front and center: *Martin anchors the Bearcats' outstanding front line. He has always been an excellent shot blocker; now Cincinnati hopes he keeps shooting with a hot hand.*

Bearcats DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bob Huggins (247-82, 10 years; 415-154 overall, 18 years; 14-9 NCAA Tourn. record).
1998-99 record: 27-6. C-USA American: 12-4/1st. Lost to Temple in NCAA East 2nd round.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Cincinnati.
Home court: Myrl Shoemaker Center (13,176).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	C	B.J. Grove	6-11	Fr.	Second-biggest recruit ever for Huggins.					
24	F	Ryan Fletcher	6-8	Sr.	6.7	5.4	1.1	42.9	75.4	38.5
3	G	DerMarr Johnson	6-9	Fr.	Athletic swingman with deadly outside shot.					
33	F	Eugene Land	6-7	So.	3.2	1.7	0.3	46.2	63.6	00.0
50	C	Donald Little	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted with injury in 1998-99.					
22	G	Steve Logan*	5-10	So.	8.9	1.5	2.2	42.3	78.7	33.1
4	C	Kenyon Martin*	6-8	Sr.	10.1	6.9	1.5	57.3	56.2	00.0
32	F	Pete Mickeal*	6-6	Sr.	14.9	7.2	1.7	58.3	70.1	31.3
34	G	Kenny Satterfield	6-2	Fr.	Shot 43% from 3-point range as HS senior.					
13	G	Leonard Stokes	6-5	Fr.	Beat out Satterfield for N.Y.'s Mr. Basketball.					
5	F	Jermaine Tate*	6-8	Sr.	4.3	4.7	0.6	43.3	58.5	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Michael Horton	6-1	3.6	1.4	3.5	45.7	49.1	00.0
G	Melvin Levett*	6-3	14.2	3.5	1.4	40.4	75.3	33.3
F	Aaron McGhee	6-7	Transferred to junior college.					
G	Alex Meacham	6-0	1.1	0.2	0.2	29.4	50.0	18.2
G	Shawn Myrick	6-0	2.6	1.2	1.0	36.2	79.3	23.5

2. DePaul

NATIONAL RANK 23

Schedule

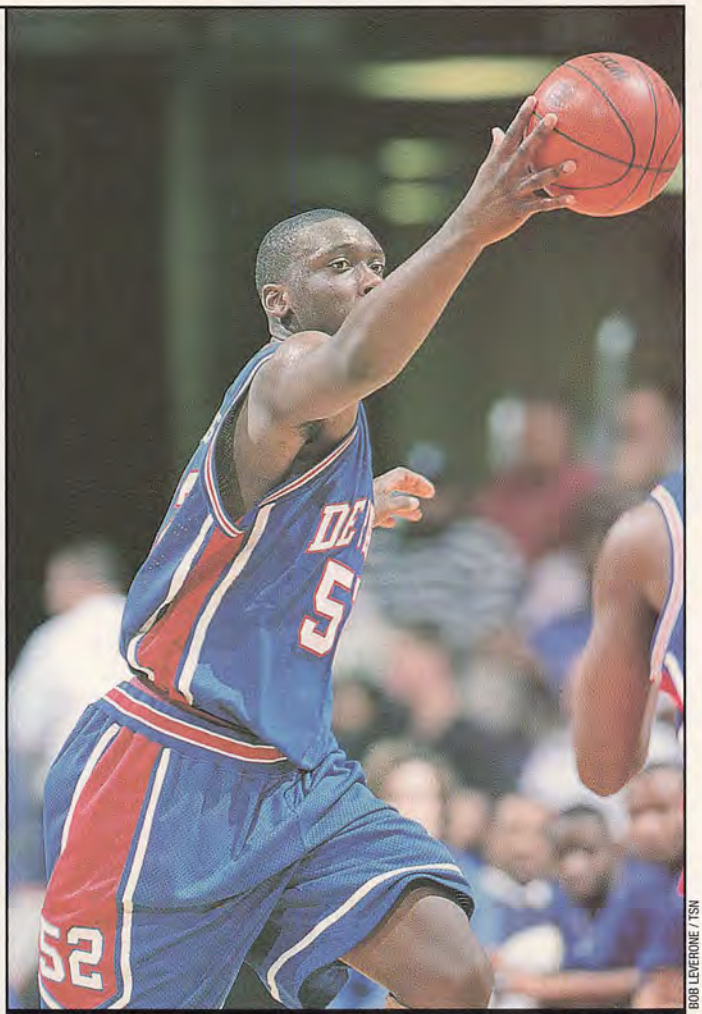
N20 Howard
N25-27 Puerto Rico Classic
D1 Chicago State
D4 at Duke
D6 Monmouth
D14 St. John's
D18 at UCLA
D28 at Memphis
D30 Elon
J8 UNC-Charlotte
J12 Marquette
J16 at Houston
J20 at Louisville
J22 Saint Louis
J26 Florida
J29 at UAB
F2 Tulane
F6 at UNC-Charlotte
F9 South Florida
F13 at Cincinnati
F16 at Marquette
F19 Louisville
F26 at Saint Louis
M2 Cincinnati
M4 Southern Mississippi

Frontcourt: The Blue Demons will be bigger in the second year of their renaissance, but that alone will not make them better. Some will need to adjust to slight changes in their routines, and coach Pat Kennedy cannot make the mistake of moving players away from their strengths. For instance, 6-9 Lance Williams is no longer needed to defend centers, which was a constant problem his freshman year. He has 7-0 freshman Steven Hunter to handle that job, although Hunter will need to become more physical to get it done full time. But Williams must continue to set himself in the low post, where his hands, footwork and numbing touch make him such a threat. Hunter is not a scorer but will not be an offensive liability as long as he sets screens, holds onto rebounds and catches when it is absolutely necessary to pass him the ball. When he's out, DePaul will not be as small as before because 6-9 reserve Ayinde Avery is joined by 6-8 John Oden, who runs the floor extremely well and plays the post well for someone without bulk. DePaul can make its greatest leap if 6-7 small forward Bobby Simmons shows up in the necessary condition to last the whole season. He was spent in February of his freshman season and ran through the last six weeks as though he were playing in steel-toed shoes. Simmons is versatile enough to have ranked among the team's top three in points, rebounds, steals and assists, but he must learn to defend at a higher level and shoot more proficiently.

Backcourt: In reality, Quentin Richardson is about two inches shorter than his listed height of 6-6. And to this point, he has really been a power forward. For his sake and DePaul's, he will have the chance to play shooting guard when the season opens, which will give him the opportunity to prove he can shoot (he can) and to demonstrate how he will be able to create room for himself in the post and get to the offensive boards from the wing. The Demons cannot afford to lose all his offensive rebounds, but they can sacrifice one or two a game if it means being more effective defensively. If Richardson is not as productive, or if DePaul stumbles, he'll probably be back underneath. There also is the matter of 6-4 recruit Paul McPherson, who led the national junior-college tournament in scoring last year using many of the same inside skills as Richardson. What if he is more ready to play than Hunter? Kennedy could put McPherson in Richardson's old spot or start him at shooting guard. DePaul's other major issue is point guard, where 6-4 Kerry Hartfield was too eager to shoot and struggled to command confidence. The offense flowed better when 5-9 Rashon Burno was in charge, although he cannot shoot and is a suspect defender.

Key to success: DePaul is growing deep enough in talent that decisions should be made about which players should play where and how they best fit together. Kennedy has some interesting choices to make about what lineup to employ, and the one that would make the Demons most competitive nationally would involve Hunter holding down the middle and absorbing much of the defensive responsibility.

Outlook: Richardson and any two guys off the street would have represented one of the great freshman combinations of this decade, but Williams and Simmons are gifted as well. If they make ordinary improvement, DePaul could be an elite team.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

On the ball: *Williams will have someone else to defend opposing centers this season, but he will be asked to continue to step it up in the low post.*

Blue Demons DATA

Coach: Pat Kennedy (25-36, 2 seasons; 351-227 overall, 19 seasons; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record). **1998-99 record:** 18-13. C-USA American: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to California in NIT 2nd round. **Last league title:** 1992 (tie, Great Midwest). **Last NCAA appearance:** 1992. **Site:** Chicago. **Home court:** Rosemont Horizon (17,500); United Center (21,000); Alumni Hall (5,300).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	F	Ayinde Avery	6-7	Sr.	2.3	2.9	0.4	43.3	66.7	00.0
33	G	George Baker	6-3	Fr.	No. 2 in voting for Kentucky's Mr. Basketball.					
22	G	David Bruno	6-2	Jr.	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.000	—	—
11	G	Rashon Burno	5-7	So.	3.1	1.7	2.5	29.4	66.0	28.6
14	C	Lamar Butler	6-11	Sr.	0.8	0.8	0.0	42.9	50.0	—
10	G	Brian Cashin	6-1	Sr.	2.8	0.2	0.4	75.0	100.0	50.0
25	G	Kerry Hartfield*	6-1	Sr.	8.9	2.7	3.1	37.7	66.7	37.4
45	C	Steven Hunter	7-0	Fr.	Can run the floor extremely well for a big man.					
23	G	Paul McPherson	6-4	Jr.	May contribute more on defense than offense.					
31	F	John Oden	6-8	Fr.	Better than average strength and athleticism.					
3	G/F	Quentin Richardson*	6-6	So.	18.9	10.5	1.0	47.8	74.3	34.6
32	F/G	Bobby Simmons*	6-7	So.	11.2	6.1	2.6	37.3	79.3	27.7
12	G	Joe Tulley	6-2	Fr.	Sharpshooter who can score points in a hurry.					
52	F/C	Lance Williams*	6-9	So.	13.9	7.8	0.6	50.0	53.2	—

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Willie Coleman*	6-1	11.3	3.4	2.0	42.9	54.3	33.0
G/F	Thomas Cooper	6-5	2.1	1.5	0.6	32.5	46.2	9.7
G	Jerry Fitzgerald	5-11	1.0	0.4	0.6	40.0	—	50.0
G/F	Roman Peoples	6-10	1.9	1.2	0.2	36.4	93.8	57.1

3. Louisville

NATIONAL RANK 39

Frontcourt: It's tempting to presume the front line's fortunes are tied to the eligibility and ability of 6-9 freshman Benjamin Eze and 6-11 freshman Muhamed Lasege. But their arrival would merely make a strong group exceptional. Although he couldn't always stay out of foul trouble, 6-9 center Dion Edward was a proficient rebounder and shot blocker. Forward Nate Johnson can break down defenders and shoot well. Undersized power forward Tony Williams may be the team MVP, fouling up defenses with his perimeter shooting and competing for rebounds.

Backcourt: Whether their point guard is 6-4 freshman Reece Gaines, 6-1 JC transfer Rashad Brooks or 6-1 sophomore rookie Caleb Gervin (who should play mostly shooting guard), the Cardinals should be more dynamic and determined at that spot than they were with Cameron Murray. Veteran second guard Marques Maybin is one of the league's best athletes but needs to play more assertively.

Key to success: Louisville's veterans in recent years have not been the sturdiest, and that again is a problem with Johnson owning the most prominent role. With so much inexperienced talent, the Cardinals need to find a worthy, effective leader—Williams makes sense—and follow his example to another NCAA bid.

Outlook: This may be the most talent Louisville has had since 1995. And in a league so bereft of accomplished veterans, its youth might not hurt much. The team does not appear to have the prerequisites to challenge for the league title, but that has never meant a lot to coach Denny Crum. He'll be working to get it ready for the tournament.

Cardinals DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Denny Crum (644-264, 28 years; 42-22 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1980 and '86).
1998-99 record: 19-11. C-USA American: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Creighton in NCAA South 1st round. **Last league title:** 1994 (Metro).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Home court: Freedom Hall (18,865).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
13	G	Quintin Bailey	6-3	So.	2.4	1.5	0.2	36.6	64.7	38.5
0	G	Rashad Brooks	6-1	Jr.	A physical player with good penetrating ability.					
33	F	Dion Edward	6-9	Sr.	5.0	5.5	1.3	49.2	64.4	00.0
12	F/C	Benjamin Eze	6-9	Fr.	Nigeria native nicknamed "Helicopter."					
22	G	Reece Gaines	6-6	Fr.	First-team all-state in Wisconsin last season.					
24	G	Caleb Gervin	6-1	So.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
51	F	Tobiah Hopper	6-9	Sr.	5.1	2.9	0.5	47.2	88.0	00.0
50	C	Muhamed Lasege	6-11	Fr.	Has been compared with Hakeem Olajuwon.					
21	F	Nate Johnson*	6-6	Sr.	12.3	4.5	2.0	47.3	75.9	29.8
5	G	Marques Maybin*	6-3	Jr.	12.1	2.8	1.6	49.2	65.3	29.4
25	G	Jeff McKinley	6-5	Jr.	1.0	0.9	0.8	40.0	00.0	40.0
34	G	Kevin Smiley	6-6	Sr.	2.2	1.1	0.4	39.3	57.1	15.0
44	F/C	Joe Sykes	6-9	Fr.	Averaged 13.2 ppg and 10.8 rpg last year.					
4	F	Haji Turner	6-8	Fr.	Medical redshirt for 1998-99 season.					
3	F	Tony Williams*	6-7	Sr.	12.1	4.8	3.0	49.6	59.8	34.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Travis Best	6-1	0.6	0.2	0.2	33.3	25.0	33.3
G/F	Eric Johnson	6-3	6.9	2.9	1.3	43.9	68.2	40.7
G	Cameron Murray*	6-0	11.8	2.5	3.9	45.4	77.3	40.4
C/F	Alex Sanders*	6-7	11.4	6.3	2.5	49.3	60.3	31.3

Schedule

N19 Va. Commonwealth
N25-27 Alaska Shootout
D4 Louisiana Tech
D11 Alabama
D15 Central Florida
D18 at Kentucky
D20 Tennessee State
D23 North Carolina
J3 Tulane
J6 Utah
J8 Southern Miss.
J12 at UAB
J13 at Georgetown
J15 at Marquette
J20 DePaul
J22 UNC-Charlotte
J27 Cincinnati
J29 at Saint Louis
F5 at Memphis
F10 Syracuse
F13 Marquette
F16 at UNC-Charlotte
F19 at DePaul
F23 Saint Louis
F27 at Cincinnati
F29 South Florida
M4 at Houston

4. UNC-Charlotte

NATIONAL RANK 42

Frontcourt: A front line that features 6-10 Jonathan Neely and 6-5 Tremaine Gardiner is not especially imposing, although Gardiner was gritty enough to produce decent numbers as a junior. The 49ers should be OK if 6-9 junior-college transfer KenKay Jones and 6-8 freshman Rodney White are ready to deliver. UNCC also added 6-11 Australian Wade Helliwell. Coach Bobby Lutz probably will play 6-5 JC transfer James Zimmerman at small forward, which would make the team deep enough in the big-man positions and move it toward becoming a quick-strike team.

Backcourt: Lutz needs a quicker point guard than Diego Guevara to make his offense work. Guevara should be happy to share the shooting guard spot with 6-4 Jobey Thomas. They both need to play better defense. Thomas should do better this year, although his lack of quickness remains a liability. The point should be 6-1 freshman Demon Brown. He was mainly a scorer in high school, and he will have that freedom in this offense as well. Dalonte Hill, who was to start last year before a knee injury, will back up Brown; he's not quick enough or proficient enough as a shooter to demand a starting job.

Key to success: The 49ers will have to get serious help from at least three, perhaps four, of their five newcomers. That's a lot to ask, but they appear talented enough to keep UNCC in the hunt for a first-division spot.

Outlook: UNCC has established itself as one of the league's current elite programs. This is something of a rebuilding season, but aside from Cincinnati and DePaul, no one in the league is clearly superior.

49ers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bobby Lutz (23-11, 1 year; 204-102 overall, 9 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-11. C-USA American: 10-6/T3rd. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA Midwest 2nd round.
Last league title: 1997 (White Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1996.
Site: Charlotte, N.C.
Home court: Dale F. Halton Arena (9,105).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Demon Brown	6-1	Fr.						
24	G	Chris Dwiggins	6-1	Sr.	0.5	0.0	0.0	16.7	00.0	00.0
40	F	Tremaine Gardiner*	6-5	Sr.	8.2	6.4	0.9	49.6	67.9	40.0
22	G	Diego Guevara*	6-1	Jr.	12.5	3.1	3.8	36.4	82.5	38.8
45	F	Charles Hayward	6-8	So.	2.9	3.5	0.2	52.0	30.0	—
13	G	Dalonte Hill	6-5	So.						
	F	KenKay Jones	6-9	Jr.						
42	C	Jonathan Neely	6-10	Jr.	1.3	1.2	0.2	39.4	70.6	—
10	G	Kedric Smith	5-11	Sr.	3.6	1.4	1.2	29.6	81.5	29.4
31	G	Jobey Thomas*	6-4	So.	7.6	2.2	1.4	36.6	73.7	38.9
25	G	Dee Tolliver	6-4	Jr.	1.7	0.6	0.2	38.5	50.0	37.5
	F	Rodney White	6-9	Fr.						
55	C	Kenny Whitehead	6-10	So.	1.3	1.6	0.2	45.2	31.8	—
	G	James Zimmerman	6-5	Jr.						

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Kelvin Price*	6-8	12.3	6.4	1.2	49.8	54.5	—
G/F	Marlon Thomas	6-6	6.1	2.4	0.9	40.6	73.7	40.0
G/F	Galen Young*	6-7	14.7	7.2	3.0	41.1	70.1	33.8

Schedule

N19 Old Dominion
N23 St. Bonaventure
N27-28 Pepperdine Tournament
D1 Davidson
D4 at Virginia Tech
D7 at Miami (Fla.)
D11 Rhode Island
D21-23 Puerto Rico Tournament
D28 at South Carolina
D31 at George Washington
J5 at Cincinnati
J8 at DePaul
J12 Houston
J15 Saint Louis
J19 at Marquette
J22 Louisville
J29 Marquette
F3 Cincinnati
F6 DePaul
F9 Southern Miss.
F12 at South Florida
F16 Louisville
F20 at Memphis
F26 Tulane
M1 at Saint Louis
M4 at UAB

5. Marquette

NATIONAL RANK 101

Frontcourt: This is the league's least athletic team. There is no such thing as a small forward, which leaves it vulnerable in man-to-man matchups. Marquette does have a promising power forward in 6-7 sophomore Oluoma Nnamaka, who can pass for a small forward if he gets a better jumper or new coach Tom Crean decides to go big. He has that option with 6-11 John Mueller, 6-11 Greg Clausen and 6-8 John Polonowski. Jon Harris, at 6-7, looks like a decent athlete. If he can find confidence, this group might be adequate.

Backcourt: Cordell Henry was recruited to be a dream point guard: quick, electric, comfortable taking jump shots. A lack of accompanying talent made it difficult for him to survive his freshman year. His shooting percentages were dreadful, and he was prone to turnovers. With some additional strength and experience, he should be better. Brian Wardle is a fine 3-point shooter who would be better if he could avoid frequent droughts. Shooter John Cliff is good for three or four games. David Diggs isn't a high-major athlete. The good news for Henry is he has a capable backup now. Junior transfer Brian Barone should make better use of Henry's down time than Bart Miller.

Key to success: Nnamaka, Harris, Mueller, Henry, Wardle. It's not a fearsome lineup but not awful. If those players can play with confidence, cohesion, enthusiasm and precision, there is enough talent in reserve to keep Marquette around .500.

Outlook: The most important element of Crean's first season is establishing himself as a coach. Crean is a dynamic personality who should get the players believing in him. If they buy into the program, so may the hard-to-please Golden Eagles fans.

Golden Eagles DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Tom Crean (first year).
1998-99 record: 14-15. Conference USA American: 6-10/6th.
Last league title: 1994 (Great Midwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Milwaukee.
Home court: Bradley Center (19,100).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Brian Barone	6-0	Jr.	Transferred from Texas A&M.					
55	C	Greg Clausen*	6-11	Jr.	3.4	3.5	0.3	45.2	52.2	—
4	G	John Cliff	6-2	Sr.	9.5	3.7	1.0	38.1	76.2	38.5
33	G	David Diggs	6-4	So.	4.0	0.7	0.3	45.6	55.6	45.5
34	F	Jon Harris	6-7	So.	2.1	2.4	0.4	37.9	58.3	00.0
10	G	Cordell Henry*	5-9	So.	7.2	2.6	3.2	33.2	76.9	32.1
	F	Krunti Hester	6-6	Fr.						
32	G/F	Bart Miller	6-5	Sr.	1.1	1.4	1.0	46.2	45.0	—
35	C	John Mueller	6-11	Jr.	1.9	3.2	0.1	31.9	52.2	—
43	F	Oluoma Nnamaka*	6-7	So.	6.7	4.9	1.0	42.5	58.8	29.2
42	F	John Polonowski	6-8	Sr.	3.0	1.6	0.1	42.9	60.0	50.0
22	G	Brian Wardle*	6-5	Jr.	12.3	3.3	1.7	37.9	83.0	35.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Mike Bargen*	6-7	10.8	5.4	2.3	41.6	63.0	37.2

Schedule

N20 Chicago State	D20 Hampton	J15 Louisville	F13 at Louisville
N23 at Minnesota	D23 at Wisconsin	J19 UNC-Charlotte	F16 DePaul
N27 Wofford	D29 Coppin State	J23 Cincinnati	F24 at South Florida
D3-4 Marquette Classic	J2 Xavier	J26 at Saint Louis	F26 Memphis
D7 Dayton	J5 Saint Louis	J29 at UNC-Charlotte	M1 UAB
D11 at Baylor	J8 at Cincinnati	F2 at Southern Miss.	M4 at Tulane
	J12 at DePaul	F5 Houston	

6. Saint Louis

NATIONAL RANK 122

Frontcourt: One of the league's mysteries last season was why 6-11 Chris Heinrich and 6-9 Matt Baniak regressed in their second seasons. Baniak simply missed shots when left unguarded. Heinrich always figured to be a situational player, but even that was tough for him last season. The Billikens got some of what they hoped to see from 6-7 Justin Tatum, but he missed so much time fighting for eligibility, he never caught up. He can be a force in the low post, though, when he's not overwhelmed by the matchup.

Backcourt: Former coach Charlie Spoonhour's lasting gift to the program should be 6-1 point guard Marque Perry, a top-100 recruit. With the league not strong at his position, Perry may find the adjustment manageable. He will not be a great shooter, but he won't turn the ball over much, either. JC transfer wing Maurice Jeffers and 6-2 senior shooter Justin Love give SLU decent options in the search for perimeter scoring. And this is a deep group, with veterans John Redden, Dave Fergerson and Troy Robertson capable of providing an occasional spark.

Key to success: Saint Louis basketball has been a Spoonhour operation for so long, it's hard to know what to expect from a team coached by Lorenzo Romar. Nearly everyone on the roster was recruited by Spoonhour, so the new coach will have to prove he can wrap his system around these players. And they'll have to believe in him.

Outlook: The teams directly in front of SLU are not so talented they can't be caught. Unfortunately, the teams to its rear aren't so far back. This team should come in around 7-9 in the league and be pleased with its first season under Romar. But it will take work.

Billikens DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (first year; 42-44 overall, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 15-16. C-USA American: 8-8/5th.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: St. Louis.
Home court: Kiel Center (20,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
30	F	Matt Baniak*	6-9	Jr.	5.3	3.6	0.5	48.2	70.5	00.0
52	F	Chris Braun	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
21	G	Drew Diener	6-5	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
4	G	Dave Fergerson*	6-0	Sr.	9.1	2.1	1.9	39.5	76.6	31.3
	G	Josh Fisher	6-2	Fr.	3A Player of Year in Washington state last year.					
	G/F	Maurice Jeffers	6-4	Jr.	Brings needed athleticism to the team.					
35	C	Chris Heinrich	6-11	Jr.	3.5	2.9	0.3	46.8	59.5	00.0
3	G	Justin Love*	6-2	Sr.	13.7	4.4	1.6	42.4	76.8	37.8
	G	Marque Perry	6-1	Fr.	Ultra-quick frosh will press for time at point.					
12	G	John Redden	6-1	Sr.	2.1	1.3	1.7	28.9	70.0	23.1
10	G/F	Troy Robertson	6-4	Sr.	3.9	1.8	1.4	44.3	71.9	37.5
24	F	Larry Simmons	6-7	Sr.	3.4	1.6	0.4	45.5	60.9	45.9
40	F	Justin Tatum	6-7	Jr.	7.2	4.5	0.4	40.7	58.7	33.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Virgel Cobbin*	6-4	10.8	2.5	1.7	43.3	84.2	38.0
G	Charles Cranford	6-5	Transferred.					
F	Ryan Luechtefeld*	6-8	8.4	5.2	1.9	45.7	57.5	27.5
G	Jamall Walker	6-0	3.2	1.8	2.7	32.4	52.3	21.2

Schedule

N13 Air Force	D16 Cincinnati	J11 Southern Illinois	F12 at Houston
N14 Alabama	D19 Mo.-Kansas City	J15 at UNC-Charlotte	F16 at Southern Miss.
N21 UNC-Asheville	D23 at Dayton	J22 at DePaul	F19 at Tulane
N27 Louisiana Tech	D30 at Kansas	J26 Marquette	F23 at Louisville
D1 at Kansas State	J2 at SW Missouri St.	J29 Louisville	F26 DePaul
D4 SW Texas State	J5 at Marquette	F5 at South Florida	M1 UNC-Charlotte
D12 Missouri	J8 Memphis	F9 UAB	M4 at Cincinnati

1. South Florida

NATIONAL RANK 49

Frontcourt: With 6-10 center Scott Johnson back from a torn knee ligament, the Bulls can use his long-range shooting to turn defenses inside-out, pulling bigger defenders away from the goal so 6-8 B.B. Waldon can work them over in the post. Waldon desperately needs maturity to become a great player, but he is the kind of inside scorer who can destabilize an opponent. Forward Chonsey Asbury masquerades as a muscleman, but he has passing and defensive skills that make him an ideal small forward for this team. Power forward Artha Reeves is all brute strength. Coach Seth Greenberg is hopeful that 6-9 freshman Gerrick Morris can make use of his shot-blocking abilities early, but he'll need strength to last for more than a few minutes at a time.

Backcourt: Veteran Cedric Smith helped make up for the previous lack of a true point guard with 104 assists last year, but sophomore Altron Jackson's one-on-one moves are spectacular. He could be one of the league's best perimeter scorers. But the team will need improved play at the point. JC transfer Marlon Dawson isn't spectacular, but he has capable teammates and only needs to run the offense as it's designed for the club to improve.

Key to success: Just having Johnson back in the lineup does not mean USF has him back. He was extremely mobile and versatile for a big player and was improving inside when he was injured. He needs to return to form if the Bulls are to make a run at an NCAA Tournament bid.

Outlook: This team is rugged defensively and potent on offense. No other team seems equipped to challenge the Bulls for first place in the National Division.

Bulls DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Seth Greenberg (39-46, 3 years; 142-116 overall, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-14. C-USA National: 6-10/T2nd.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Tampa, Fla.
Home court: Sun Dome (10,044).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
10	F	Chonsey Asbury*	6-6	Jr.	11.5	4.2	3.0	45.7	51.9	27.7
32	F/C	Raheim Brown	6-10	So.	3.7	3.1	0.4	35.0	62.5	00.0
	G	Marlon Dawson	6-1	Jr.	Averaged 17.0 ppg in JC last season.					
11	F	Altron Jackson	6-6	So.	8.9	2.8	1.0	44.7	61.5	28.3
	G	Haven Jackson	6-2	So.	Sat out last season with a broken foot.					
9	C	Scott Johnson	6-10	Sr.	Played two games before tearing ACL.					
	G	Reggie Kohn	6-1	Fr.						
	F/C	Gerrick Morris	6-9	Fr.						
5	F/C	Artha Reeves*	6-7	Jr.	5.5	3.2	0.7	46.5	64.0	00.0
	F	Sam Sanders	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Rutgers.					
4	G	Cedric Smith*	6-4	Jr.	9.8	6.5	3.7	35.1	59.7	30.2
14	F	B.B. Waldon*	6-8	So.	16.2	7.0	1.5	50.1	51.0	30.1

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	William Copeland	5-10	0.7	0.5	0.2	75.0	40.0	00.0
G	Anddrikk Frazier	5-11	3.8	1.5	1.4	47.1	87.5	37.9
G	Shaddrick Jenkins*	6-4	11.4	6.0	3.1	41.3	65.7	26.8

Schedule

N27 at George Washington
N29 at Tennessee
D3 at Central Florida
D5 Duquesne
D11 Tampa Bay Classic
D13 Florida Classic
D21-23 Pearl Harbor
D29 Harvard
J3 Morgan State
J5 UAB
J8 Florida State
J12 at Memphis
J15 at UAB
J17 Cleveland State
J19 at Tulane
J22 Southern Miss.
J26 Houston
J29 at Cincinnati
F5 Saint Louis
F9 at DePaul
F12 UNC-Charlotte
F16 Tulane
F19 at South Florida
F24 Marquette
F26 at Southern Miss.
F29 at Louisville
M4 Memphis

2. Southern Miss

NATIONAL RANK 72

Frontcourt: Not many front lines stifled Cincinnati the way the Golden Eagles did last season. There is something special about this group. Although 6-11 Carlos Booker offers little offensively, he is an extraordinary shot blocker who can frighten big men. Coach James Green still isn't sure if he wants to go with size or quickness offensively. If he picks size, he will go with Booker and 6-9 Vandarel Jones inside. If he chooses speed, he may use 6-8 junior-college product Carl Henderson, who is more fluid offensively than Jones. Kilavorus Thompson, 6-7, is an option; he has been restricted by eligibility issues and injuries. Green's insistence on rugged defense in the lane certainly will stand firm.

Backcourt: Point guard Mel Cauthen is a veteran player who is still searching for ways to score. But Green is comfortable with such an experienced leader. Earl Flowers is a capable backup whose speed provides a different look, but neither provides the sort of perimeter touch opponents respect. JC recruit Marlon Carter and freshmen Marcus Terrell and Mario Myles could be the sort of scorers USM needs from the wing position.

Key to success: The Golden Eagles spent most of their possessions last season working to free Neil Reed for jump shots. Nobody on this team merits that approach. The key is to create more scores with the defense, but that may leave the lane vulnerable. It has never been Green's style, but he's giving it thought.

Outlook: The problems other schools in this division have developed have put USM in with the league's elite. They were there last season, earning a first-round league tournament bye. But this team may get that bye without any special favors this season.

Golden Eagles DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: James Green (48-42, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 14-16. C-USA National: 6-10/T2nd.
Last league title: 1991 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Home court: Reed Green Coliseum (8,095).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
33	C	Carlos Booker*	6-11	Sr.	5.5	5.0	0.5	42.1	64.0	—
31	G	Tobias Brinkley	6-4	Fr.	Redshirted during 1998-99 season.					
34	G	Clement Carter	6-5	Fr.	Offense not a problem, but defense might be.					
45	G/F	Marlon Carter	6-6	So.	Savvy player whose versatility is a plus.					
20	G	Mel Cauthen	6-0	Jr.	5.0	2.4	3.2	37.2	76.6	14.3
10	G	Earl Flowers	6-1	Sr.	5.8	1.3	2.7	36.7	70.7	23.4
43	F	Carl Henderson	6-8	Jr.	Athletic post player with good size.					
32	F/C	Vandarel Jones*	6-9	Sr.	6.8	7.0	0.4	61.0	58.1	—
21	G	Mario Myles	6-5	Fr.	Loads of talent and good athleticism.					
42	C	Michael Palmer	6-9	Fr.	Adds depth in the low post.					
3	G	Andy Rice	6-2	So.	Sharpshooter will provide a perimeter threat.					
14	G	Marcus Terrell	6-2	Fr.	Product of prep power Provine (Miss.) HS.					
25	F	Kilavorus Thompson	6-7	Jr.	2.7	2.9	0.6	49.1	55.2	—
30	F	David Wall	6-5	Jr.	JC star will be expected to contribute right away.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Robert Lewis	6-3	1.1	0.3	0.2	26.7	100.0	16.7
F	Pedro Phillips	6-5	10.9	5.2	1.5	46.9	73.3	32.0
G	Neil Reed*	6-2	18.1	3.2	2.0	40.0	84.5	35.6
C	Mark Schwab	6-10	0.3	0.5	0.2	14.3	—	—
G	Arthur Stapleton*	6-3	7.9	2.7	1.5	37.2	79.0	33.0
G	Kevin Winn	6-3	2.4	2.2	0.9	45.1	68.4	00.0

Schedule

N20 Alcorn State
N30 New Orleans
D4 at South Alabama
D7 at Univ. Of La.-Monroe
D11 at SW Louisiana
D21 Troy State
D27 Jackson State
D30 at Auburn
J5 Houston
J8 at Louisville
J15 Tulane
J19 at UAB
J22 at South Florida
J25 Centenary
J29 Memphis
F2 Marquette
F5 at Tulane
F9 UNC-Charlotte
F12 at Memphis
F16 Saint Louis
F19 at UAB
F23 at Cincinnati
F26 South Florida
M1 Houston
M4 DePaul

3. Memphis

NATIONAL RANK 123

Frontcourt: 6-10 center Kelly Wise is agile, athletic and intense, and when he becomes more polished offensively, he will be an all-league player. Big forwards Paris London and Shamel Jones both have the physical tools to be fine players, but Jones is inconsistent and London hasn't learned how to play. Coach Tic Price was frustrated enough last season to often turn to James Harris (6-9, 240), who tries but does not have the quickness or talent to make a serious impact. With those four fighting for the big-man jobs, there is little competition for 6-6 JC recruit Shannon Forman at small forward. He'll rebound and scrape inside, something Jones and London try to avoid when possible.

Backcourt: The Tigers were counting on guard Jimmie Hunter, but he was ruled ineligible and left. That means junior Marcus Moody gets more responsibility on the perimeter. The nice thing about Moody is his numbers in every major statistical category except blocks improved from his first year. Point guard Keiron Shine was not creative and struggled to score. If Shine doesn't play more assertively, freshman Courtney Trask may replace him.

Key to success: There is enough talent for the team to make progress and perhaps even challenge South Florida for the division. But last year's team was fractious, inconsistent and porous defensively. If Memphis wants to become a good team, it first must become a team.

Outlook: Price faces a lot of pressure. The loss of Hunter could be viewed as a positive, given his pension for selfish play and inattention to defense, but the same appeared true when guard Detric Golden became ineligible last year. That didn't turn out so well.

Tigers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Tic Price (30-27, 2 years; 93-54 overall, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 13-15. C-USA National: 6-10/T2nd.
Last league title: 1998 (National Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Memphis, Tenn.
Home court: The Pyramid (20,142).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
31	C	Earl Barron	6-11	Fr.	Averaged 20 ppg and 11 rpg in HS last year.					
15	G	Shyrone Chatman	6-4	Jr.	3.8	1.6	0.7	29.4	70.8	23.2
40	F	Shannon Forman	6-5	Jr.	Will press for playing time at small forward.					
35	C	James Harris	6-9	Sr.	1.2	1.5	0.1	41.7	16.7	00.0
55	F/C	Shamel Jones	6-9	Jr.	5.6	3.8	0.9	40.3	59.5	27.5
14	F	Paris London	6-8	So.	5.0	2.6	0.3	48.9	63.5	00.0
32	G	Marcus Moody*	6-5	Jr.	12.6	3.8	2.7	42.1	80.4	32.8
20	G	Aaron Mulvagh	6-6	Sr.	0.7	0.8	0.3	33.3	100.0	00.0
11	G	Keiron Shine*	5-10	Sr.	5.4	1.4	1.8	42.5	88.9	28.0
5	G	Courtney Trask	6-3	Fr.	High school team was 148-33 during his tenure.					
45	F	Kelly Wise*	6-10	So.	6.2	5.0	0.4	59.2	58.5	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Dinno Daniels	6-0	Left school.					
G	Jimmie Hunter*	6-4	Left school.					
F	Jermaine Ousley	6-8	6.0	5.1	0.8	45.2	64.3	00.0
F	Omar Sneed*	6-8	16.7	7.5	1.7	50.6	64.2	16.2

Schedule

N22-24 Maui Invitational	D18 Tennessee	J22 Houston	F23 at Houston
N29 Alabama A&M	D21 Univ. of La.-Monroe	J26 UAB	F26 at Marquette
D1 Jackson State	D23 Grambling State	J29 at Southern Miss.	M1 Tulane
D4 Miami (Fla.)	D28 DePaul	F5 Louisville	M4 at South Florida
D8 at Kansas State	J2 Arkansas	F9 at Tulane	
D11 at Mississippi	J8 at Saint Louis	F12 Southern Miss.	
D16 at Arkansas State	J12 South Florida	F16 at UAB	
	J19 at Cincinnati	F20 UNC-Charlotte	

4. Houston

NATIONAL RANK 155

Frontcourt: Forward George Williams is all that's left of Clyde Drexler's first three recruits. That's not all bad. Williams was the best of the three, one of the few top-50 recruits signed by C-USA. He'll give talented veteran Kenny Younger a sidekick and double the strength on the front line. Houston lost a rebounder when William Stringfellow was declared ineligible, although it may be able to make up for part of that with the return from injury of 6-8 Early Smith and increased playing time for Jake Ballis.

Backcourt: There's no doubting Gee Gervin has exceptional talent. He's quicker than most and shoots as well on the move as anyone. But he still has to prove he can play to win, not just to score. The Cougars had a 4-11 record when he stood alone as their scoring leader, compared to 4-4 when it was Younger. Gervin took too many chances. Losing point guard Antonio Falu to ineligibility hurts deeply, although it opens a clear lane for 6-3 Texas transfer Bernard Smith to join 6-5 wing Chad Hendrick as Gervin's partners. Smith can take ballhandling pressure from Gervin and allow him to concentrate on scoring, and he could be a 3-point threat. Hendrick had a dismal sophomore season; he's a capable athlete who isn't developing as a player.

Key to success: The Cougars were a terribly sloppy team that often lost interest in games. That explains how they twice established records for points allowed in C-USA games. They need to get serious about winning if they're going to make it happen.

Outlook: The near-complete collapse of the recruiting class hasn't erased all expectations of improvement. There's enough talent that the Cougars ought to be able to push closer to .500.

Cougars DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Clyde Drexler (10-17, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 10-17. C-USA National: 5-11/6th.
Last league title: 1992 (tie, Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Houston.
Home court: Hofheinz Pavilion (8,479).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
43	F	Jake Ballis	6-8	So.	4.1	3.5	0.6	44.9	56.9	—
11	G	Torrence Botts*	6-1	So.	4.5	1.4	0.7	29.6	69.6	27.9
35	G	Treva Crosby	6-1	Jr.	5.0	0.7	0.9	30.6	74.5	28.9
15	G	Derrick Fernandez	6-5	Sr.	4.8	2.8	1.0	47.4	56.5	25.0
13	G	Gee Gervin*	6-2	Sr.	20.6	4.2	3.9	42.3	79.1	40.0
32	G/F	Chad Hendrick*	6-5	Jr.	6.2	2.8	0.9	39.7	67.6	19.4
45	F	Tega Moceanu	6-8	Jr.	1.4	0.6	0.3	35.0	50.0	20.0
	G	Calvin Murphy Jr.	5-8	Jr.	Hall of Famer's son adds depth to backcourt.					
	G	Marcus Oliver	6-3	Fr.	Third-team all-state in North Carolina last year.					
21	G	Bernard Smith	6-3	So.	Transferred from Texas.					
30	F	Early Smith	6-8	Jr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
5	G	Roy Spears	6-1	Sr.	1.7	1.2	0.8	22.0	56.3	25.0
	F	George Williams	6-8	Fr.	Drexler compares Williams with Scottie Pippen.					
50	F	Kenny Younger*	6-9	Sr.	15.7	7.8	1.6	48.5	62.5	38.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Moses Malone Jr.	6-5	3.4	0.8	0.2	29.4	60.0	29.4
F	Willie Moore	6-5	2.1	2.0	0.4	31.7	60.0	30.8
F	William Stringfellow*	7.3	9.6	0.9	47.2	51.7	00.0	—

Schedule

N18-21 Alaska Classic	Monroe	J12 at UNC-Charlotte	F12 at Saint Louis
N27 SMU	D18 at Georgetown	J16 DePaul	F17 Cincinnati
D3-4 Iowa Tournament	D21 Sacramento State	J22 at Memphis	F19 South Florida
D7 Rice	D30 Connecticut	J26 at South Florida	F23 Memphis
D11 Valparaiso	J2 at Texas	J29 at Tulane	F26 at UAB
D15 at Univ. of La.-	J5 at Southern Miss.	F2 UAB	M1 Southern Miss.
	J8 Tulane	F5 at Marquette	M4 Louisville

5. UAB

NATIONAL RANK 170

Frontcourt: Aside from 7-1 Igor Nikolic, there is no one taller than 6-7 and no one who averaged as many as six rebounds. The closest thing the Blazers have to a frontcourt force is reliable senior Torrey Ward. He's 6-3. Coach Murry Bartow uses Ward as a utility man, a role he plays well. But to compete in this league, the Blazers need more out of Myron Ransom, whose sophomore year was weak, and their newcomers. David Walker will compete for Ransom's job. Wide-bodied Mark Kimbrough and Chico Moore will have to keep the team competitive on the boards. Under Gene Bartow, UAB often disguised a lack of height by using its muscle to play clog-the-lane defense. That could be the only option to keep this group from getting shot down inside.

Backcourt: Eric Holmes looked to be a prime-time scorer early but tailed off as the season progressed. The Blazers can't afford that collapse this time. Big junior LeAndrew Bass probably will run the point—he's a great passer but prone to concentration lapses—leaving Holmes more energy to concentrate on scoring. He's the closest thing to an established offensive threat.

Key to success: Holmes and Ward need to play above their heads while the rest adjust to new roles or a new level of competition. Holmes can't afford his previous inconsistencies. Ward needs to increase production in the major categories.

Outlook: The Blazers are close to starting over. Bass and Ransom have yet to apply themselves consistently to improving their skills, which has led the staff to keep bringing in junior-college players. It will be an accomplishment if UAB can keep itself above fifth in the National Division.

Blazers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Murry Bartow (59-38, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-12. C-USA National: 10-6/1st. Lost to Iowa in NCAA West 1st round.
Last league title: 1999 (National).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Birmingham, Ala.
Home court: Bartow Arena (8,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	G	Bill Armstrong	6-1	Jr.	0.5	0.5	0.4	25.0	00.0	33.3
	F	Sidney Ball	6-5	Fr.	At 185 pounds, he needs to gain some bulk.					
4	G	LeAndrew Bass	6-3	Jr.	3.4	2.7	3.4	40.3	57.1	25.0
	G	Morris Finley	5-11	Fr.	First-team all-state in Alabama last year.					
10	G	Eric Holmes*	6-3	Sr.	9.2	2.2	3.2	36.3	68.1	33.3
	G/F	Tony Johnson	6-4	Fr.	Avg. 17.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 4.2 apg as HS senior.					
	F	Mark Kimbrough	6-5	Jr.	One of top prep prospects in U.S. in 1996.					
	F	Chico Moore	6-7	Jr.	JC teams won 49 games in his two seasons.					
50	C	Igor Nikolic	7-1	Jr.	2.9	1.9	0.2	51.0	72.7	37.5
13	F	Myron Ransom	6-5	Jr.	3.7	2.6	1.0	34.0	59.4	20.6
	F	David Walker	6-5	Jr.	One of top JC players in Florida last season.					
3	G/F	Torrey Ward*	6-3	Sr.	8.5	5.2	2.2	45.6	59.3	22.7
	F	Derrick Underwood	6-6	Fr.	Like Ball, he'll need to gain a few pounds.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	DeWayne Brown*	6-7	5.3	5.0	0.6	50.4	59.6	00.0
G	Damon Cobb*	6-4	10.9	3.5	2.3	39.8	82.4	37.1
F	Antonio Jackson	6-8	7.3	4.0	0.6	53.6	70.1	—
F	Willie Mitchell	6-8	10.0	4.3	0.5	46.2	71.6	32.4
C	Felix Okam	6-11	0.4	0.3	0.1	50.0	—	—
F	Fred Williams*	6-8	15.5	6.3	1.1	53.1	74.3	22.5

Schedule

N19 at Auburn
N23 Alabama A&M
N27 Georgia Southern
D1 Texas-Pan American
D4 at Tulsa
D7 South Alabama
D11 Fresno State
D21 Tennessee-Martin
D27-28 Indiana Tournament
J5 at South Florida
J12 Louisville
J15 South Florida
J19 Southern Miss.
J23 at Tulane
J26 at Memphis
J29 DePaul
F2 at Houston
F5 Cincinnati
F9 at Saint Louis
F12 Tulane
F16 Memphis
F19 at Southern Miss.
F26 Houston
M1 at Marquette
M4 at UNC-Charlotte

6. Tulane

NATIONAL RANK 233

Frontcourt: The transfer of leading scorer Byron Mouton after two seasons was one more huge indictment against this program. Ledaryl Billingsley is the reliable warrior in short supply on this roster. He rebounds and puts back what he can and led Tulane in scoring even though the wide-open offense does not favor a grinder. Morris Jordan's ineffectiveness on the boards was a key to opponents' edge in that category, and he was not a defensive presence. Mouton's departure probably means an opportunity for top recruit Trello Galloway and more time for Sterling Davis, who was recruited as a shooting guard but proved too slow and has bulked up into a role-playing forward.

Backcourt: Waitari Marsh is a talented playmaker. He is quick, competitive and reasonably creative, but without a system to maximize the Wave's limited abilities, he's pretty much on his own. Backcourt partner Dylan Osean shot well enough from 3-point range but isn't athletic enough to defend. The strength of this team is guard depth. Reserve point Marlo Miles is back after missing time because of academic concerns, which frees Wade Mason to compete with Osean at shooting guard.

Key to success: Perhaps losing Mouton will persuade the Green Wave to slow down. The players left on the roster are more geared toward playing a halfcourt style and using muscle along the baseline. More running will equate to more defeats.

Outlook: There's no reason to expect a climb in the standings. The one reason to be optimistic is that neither Houston nor UAB appears to be in great shape, and Memphis is tenuous as well. That's Tulane's chance—to be less bad than the others.

Green Wave DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Perry Clark (165-134, 10 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-15. C-USA National: 6-10/T2nd.
Last league title: 1997 (Red Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: New Orleans.
Home court: Fogelman Arena (3,600).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
4	F	Ledaryl Billingsley*	6-7	Jr.	11.0	6.8	0.5	49.1	64.8	—
5	F	Brandon Brown	6-8	Fr.	Athletic forward who finds a way to score.					
32	F	Sterling Davis*	6-7	Sr.	9.8	4.6	1.0	49.2	63.2	37.1
15	F	Trello Galloway	6-7	Fr.	Tough inside player who loves to rebound.					
13	F	Linton Johnson	6-8	So.	1.7	1.9	0.3	34.8	45.0	12.5
44	F/C	Morris Jordan	6-10	Sr.	7.4	4.1	0.4	42.2	65.5	31.3
3	G	Waitari Marsh*	6-2	So.	6.2	3.1	3.4	38.1	63.6	20.0
0	G	Wade Mason	6-2	Sr.	6.2	1.3	2.6	36.4	64.9	26.9
40	G	Marlo Miles	6-1	Sr.	4.9	2.2	2.0	41.7	61.5	42.9
25	G	Dylan Osean*	6-4	Sr.	8.4	2.2	1.3	44.4	84.0	38.5
11	G	Brandon Spann	6-1	Fr.	Expected to contribute right away at point guard.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Keith Harris	6-7	3.2	2.6	0.8	40.8	48.8	22.2
F	Ted Kritza	6-7	5.1	3.0	0.9	46.9	53.8	20.0
F/G	Byron Mouton*	6-6	Transferred to Maryland.					

Schedule

N17 Fordham
N21 Prairie View A&M
N24 Nicholls State
N30 at Virginia Commonwealth
D4 Centenary
D8 Texas A&M
D11 at Lamar
D22 North Carolina State
D29 Howard
D31 SMU
J3 at Louisville
J8 at Houston
J12 Cincinnati
J15 at Southern Miss.
J19 South Florida
J23 UAB
J24 New Orleans
J29 Houston
F2 at DePaul
F5 Southern Miss.
F9 Memphis
F12 at UAB
F16 at South Florida
F19 Saint Louis
F26 at UNC-Charlotte
M1 at Memphis
M4 Marquette

Inside dish

Mountain West

RANK 8

ASCENDING: Wyoming. The Cowboys went through hell last year as injuries prevented them from making a serious run at an NCAA Tournament bid. Yet, first-year coach Steve McClain managed to coax 18 wins out of the team and earn a spot in the NIT. The starting five, led by standout center Ugo Udezue, returns. If Wyoming stays healthy, the Cowboys are legitimate contenders for the inaugural Mountain West title. New Mexico, with new coach Fran Fraschilla stoking the fires and Lamont Long opting not to go pro, will be a feisty team to deal with.

DESCENDING: Colorado State. The Rams lost their standout backcourt tandem of Milt Palacio and Andre McKanstry. They were one of the WAC's best duos. The Rams have a good recruiting class coming in, but it's hard to imagine anyone stepping in and doing what Palacio could—run the team, play outstanding defense and score at will.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Utah's Andre Miller. The Utes will miss Miller's leadership, defensive ability and steady scoring and rebounding. Trent Whiting, a junior-college star, will get the first crack at replacing Miller. Whiting will have to adjust to playing in Division I and for the demanding Rick Majerus.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Wyoming's Anthony Blakes. He's not flashy or fancy, but he does it all. He scores inside and out. He rebounds at both ends of the floor. He defends like a fiend, and he hits the deck for every loose ball. He hurt his foot last year but played despite the injury. If he's healthy, he'll shed that "underrated" tag.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: New Mexico's Damion Walker. He came from TCU to aid Kenny Thomas and lead the Lobos deep into the NCAA Tournament. Instead, he feuded with Thomas, and his inconsistent play and poor attitude were a constant source of frustration. Perhaps Fraschilla can help Walker get his act together and play the way he did at TCU.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: UNLV's Bill Bayno. After going to the NCAA Tournament in '98, UNLV went 16-13 and lost at home in its first WAC tournament game. This despite having an abundance of talent, including Shawn Marion. Despite having four years remaining on his contract, Bayno knows he better get the Rebels back to the Big Dance or it's really going to get hot in the desert.

BEST BETS: Despite losing one of its all-time great players in Miller, Utah probably will carry the Mountain West's banner into the NCAA Tournament. The Utes still have considerable talent with Alex Jensen, Hanno Mottola and Nate Althoff and the return of a couple of players who had been on their Mormon missions. ... Down the road in Provo, BYU, because of the annual turnover because of missions, will be the usual wild card. The team could be pretty good, or it could struggle mightily.

ODDS AND ENDS: With the heavy influx of junior-college players and the hiring of former Maine Central Institute coach Max Good, look for UNLV to increase its scoring output. In 10 years at MCI, Good's teams averaged 107 points a game. The Rebels averaged 75 points a game last year. ... Air Force has not won a conference road game since '95 and has dropped 38 straight league contests away from home. Mark January 20 on your calendar—that's when the Falcons play at San Diego State, arguably their best chance to break the streak. ... If you're calendar-watching, circle the weekend of November 19-20 in Albuquerque, when New Mexico and St. John's participate in the CoSIDA Classic at The Pit. Should the Lobos and Red Storm win their opening-round games against Dayton and Oklahoma State, respectively, it would pit Fraschilla against his old team. The tabloids will have fun with that.

BY STEVE CARP *Las Vegas Sun*

Predictions

1. Utah	5. Colorado State
2. New Mexico	6. Brigham Young
3. UNLV	7. Air Force
4. Wyoming	8. San Diego State

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Anthony Blakes, Wyoming	6-2	188	Sr.
G	Lamont Long, New Mexico	6-4	190	Sr.
F	Alex Jensen, Utah	6-7	215	Sr.
F/C	Kaspars Kambala, UNLV	6-9	250	Jr.
F	Hanno Mottola, Utah	6-10	240	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Mark Dickel, UNLV	6-2	175	Sr.
G/F	Tony Harvey, Utah	6-5	188	Sr.
F	Ceedric Goodwyn, Colorado St.	6-8	235	Sr.
C	Ugo Udezue, Wyoming	6-8	237	Jr.
F	Tyron Wright, Air Force	6-4	195	Sr.

Player of the Year

Alex Jensen, F, Utah

Newcomer of the Year

Lou Kelly, G/F, UNLV

Honor Roll

Best shooter: John Sivesind, Colorado State
Best rebounder: David Schuck, Air Force
Best playmaker: Mark Dickel, UNLV
Best defender: Alex Jensen, Utah
Best leaper: Ceedric Goodwyn, Colorado State
Most versatile: Lamont Long, New Mexico
Most flamboyant: John Robinson II, New Mexico
Best NBA prospect: Hanno Mottola, Utah

Ranking the Recruiting



1. UNLV: Junior-college transfers Lou Kelly, Kenny Dye and Trevor Diggs will be in the rotation.
2. Utah: The hope is Trent Whiting, a 6-1 guard from Snow College, can replace Andre Miller.
3. New Mexico: Point guard Marlon Parmer and power forward Wayland White are impact players.
4. Colorado State: 6-5 guard Andy Birley will get a long look.
5. Brigham Young: Fresno City College guard Terrell Lyday is quick and sees the floor well.
6. Wyoming: Swingman Aaron Abrams might start by midseason.
7. San Diego State: JC transfers Bradley Jackson and Jim Roban are hoping to boost the anemic offense.
8. Air Force: Tom Bellairs, 6-7 and 235, is a candidate to replace top rebounder David Schuck.

More on the Mountain West at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. Utah

NATIONAL RANK 17

Schedule

N16-26 Preseason NIT
N29 Stony Brook
N30 Wisconsin-Milwaukee
D1 at Weber State
D3 Augusta State
D7 Utah State
D11 at Washington State
D17 Sioux Falls
D18 Chicago State
D22 Texas
D28 Oregon State
D30 Wisconsin-Milwaukee
J1 Southern Utah
J6 at Louisville
J10 at San Diego State
J15 at BYU
J22 Wyoming
J24 Colorado State
J29 at Air Force
J31 New Mexico
F5 at UNLV
F10 San Diego State
F12 BYU
F19 at New Mexico
F21 UNLV
F26 at Colorado State
F28 at Wyoming
M4 Air Force

Frontcourt: Alex Jensen, Hanno Mottola and Nate Althoff make up the Mountain West's most experienced and talented frontcourt. The trio gives Utah size, strength, savvy and scoring. Jensen has come of age as an all-around player, progressing from defensive stopper to someone who can hit key shots and make great passes. He is the front-runner for Mountain West Player of the Year. Mottola is the top returning scorer, and he has not wilted under Rick Majerus' hot glare. He had an outstanding season that was overlooked because of the attention Andre Miller garnered. This figures to be Althoff's year to expand his offensive game, as Majerus will be asking everyone to chip in and fill the void left by the departure of Miller and his 16 points a night. Phil Cullen got valuable experience in his first season, playing in 33 games. He will back up Althoff and Mottola. The return of Jeff Johnsen from his Mormon mission could free Tony Harvey to concentrate on being a shooting guard instead of a small forward. The key to improvement could come in practice as Duke transfer Chris Burgess will get to work against these guys every day. He can help push the Utes to familiar heights, such as the Elite Eight.

Backcourt: Junior-college All-American Trent Whiting, based on experience, should get the first crack at starting at the point to replace Miller. Gary Colbert could wind up with the job once he shakes off the rust from his church mission. A third possibility is freshman Chris Huber, who has a lot of natural talent but no experience. He could be the long-term solution. Whoever earns the spot will be working with Harvey, who is likely to settle in as shooting guard. Look for Harvey to take on a leadership role with a team that is not lacking in that area. And he probably will get the green light to shoot.

Key to success: Can someone run this team as flawlessly as Miller did? That's asking a lot. But Majerus is so demanding that whoever inherits this task better be able to deliver consistently. In this system, you have to distribute the ball and play great on-the-ball defense. The scoring is a bonus. So whoever wins the job must be able to get Jensen, Mottola, Harvey and Althoff a lot of touches. And because the Mountain West is not particularly big up front, Utah enjoys an advantage in the frontcourt. The team will use that advantage whenever it can. It will be interesting to see how far Harvey can elevate his game. He has had a year to adjust from junior college to Division I, and he handled it well. Now, he will be asked to step it up further and be a leader. Can he do it consistently? He, more than whoever plays the point, may ultimately decide how far the Utes go.

Overall: Majerus is going to find out early what his team's shortcomings are. The Utes are in the Preseason NIT and probably are looking at a second-round matchup with their old nemesis Kentucky. Win or lose, Majerus will find out what he needs to work on with this group. But there are a lot of veteran hands to carry the day until the newcomers and returnees work out the kinks. Talent-wise, Utah not only is good enough to win the Mountain West in what appears to be a bit of a down year overall, but also could make some noise in the NCAA Tournament, assuming the backcourt comes through. The Utes have enough size to give a lot of people problems.



TSN

All-arounder: *Jensen, an integral part of Utah's experienced front line, expects to get a lot of touches. But he can pass effectively and play great defense, too.*

Utes DATA

Coach: Rick Majerus (238-64, 10 years; 337-116 overall, 15 years; 16-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 28-5. WAC: 14-0/1st Pacific Division. Lost to Miami (Ohio) in NCAA Midwest 2nd round.
Last league title: 1999 (WAC). **Last time didn't make NCAA field:** 1994. **Site:** Salt Lake City. **Home court:** Huntsman Center (15,000).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
52	C	Nate Althoff*	6-11	Jr.	4.9	4.5	.5	60.4	51.8	00.0
	G	Gary Colbert	6-3	So.	Proposition 48 athlete; did not play last season.					
40	C/F	Phil Cullen	6-9	So.	4.3	2.9	.5	45.5	71.4	37.7
5	F/G	Tony Harvey	6-5	Sr.	2.3	1.2	1.1	44.6	62.5	35.9
	F	Nick Jacobson	6-5	Fr.	Honorable mention All-America; 31.1 ppg.					
50	F	Alex Jensen*	6-7	Sr.	12.1	7.6	3.4	54.3	71.4	39.8
35	G/F	Jeff Johnsen	6-4	So.	On church mission, 1997-1999.					
32	G	Jeremy Killion*	6-0	Sr.	8.9	1.9	1.3	41.2	72.7	34.5
13	F	Hanno Mottola*	6-10	Sr.	15.3	5.4	1.8	48.2	83.3	35.4
42	F	Mike Puzey	6-8	Fr.	On church mission, 1997-1999.					
4	G	Adam Sharp	6-2	So.	2.3	1.2	1.1	40.8	76.9	31.3
	G	Trent Whiting	6-1	Jr.	Transferred from Snow College.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Andre Miller*	6-2	15.8	5.4	5.6	49.1	69.0	26.5

2. New Mexico

NATIONAL RANK 40

Frontcourt: Without Kenny Thomas, first-year coach Fran Fraschilla is going to count on Brian Smith, Damion Walker and newcomers Rafael Berumen, Wayland White and R.T. Guinn to provide balance. White is a rugged inside player who doesn't back down. Berumen has a big body (6-9, 235), and if the work ethic of Greg Davis and White rubs off on him a little, he could help right away.

Backcourt: Lamont Long, who opted not to go pro, returns for his senior season. Long is this team's leader and a potential All-America candidate who should flourish under Fraschilla's attacking style. He is exciting and knows how to deliver in the clutch. He won five games last season in the final seconds, including in the NCAA Tournament. Don't be surprised to see a regular three-guard set with Long, Kevin Henry and John Robinson II. Henry can carry a team when his shot is on. His challenge is to take good shots and hit them. Fraschilla will find minutes for freshman Marlon Parmer, an outstanding point guard prospect, and shooting guard Tim Lightfoot, who could break through with Fraschilla calling the shots.

Key to success: The wild card is Walker, who was on the All-America track at TCU but transferred to New Mexico and fell into off-the-court troubles. What Walker does with that opportunity may determine New Mexico's fate.

Outlook: The team has a chance to get back to the NCAAs, especially if it takes care of business in the conference. There's no reason it can't win 20-plus games with the talent on hand. Look for this year to be the fifth straight 20-win season.

Lobos DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Fran Fraschilla (first year).
1998-99 record: 25-9. WAC: 9-5/T2nd Pacific Division. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA West 2nd round.
Last league title: 1994 (WAC).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Home court: University Arena (18,018).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
24	G	Nick Andrews	6-4	Jr.	0.4	0.0	0.1	66.7	00.0	00.0
	F	Rafael Berumen	6-9	Fr.	Voted Player of Year by the Los Angeles Times.					
	F	R.T. Guinn	6-9	Fr.	Averaged 18.5 points and 14.6 rebounds.					
42	G	Roland Hannah	6-6	Sr.	3.3	2.3	0.7	48.2	59.3	33.3
11	G	Kevin Henry*	6-3	Jr.	12.8	2.4	1.5	43.5	89.8	42.7
30	F	Pat Kelly	6-4	So.	0.7	1.7	0.0	28.6	00.0	00.0
10	G	Tim Lightfoot	6-4	So.	2.6	0.8	0.5	39.3	80.0	26.5
3	G	Lamont Long*	6-4	Sr.	16.8	6.5	3.0	43.8	81.2	38.0
	G	Marlon Parmer	6-2	Fr.	Averaged 26 points and nine assists as senior.					
22	G	John Robinson II*	6-1	So.	10.2	2.6	7.7	37.0	74.2	35.1
21	F	Brian Smith	6-8	Jr.	7.0	3.6	0.6	53.1	72.7	27.3
33	F	Damion Walker*	6-7	Sr.	9.7	4.4	0.8	52.4	78.2	00.0
		Wayland White	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Iowa Western CC.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C/F	Kenny Thomas*	6-8	17.8	10.0	1.9	54.5	73.4	37.0
F	Greg Davis	6-9	Transferred to Baylor.					
F	Drew Gaulden	6-8	Transferred to Gonzaga.					
G	Marcos White	5-7	0.5	0.1	0.0	40.0	25.0	0.0

Schedule

N19-20 CoSIDA Classic	D18 Texas-El Paso	J17 UNLV	F17 at BYU
N23 Stephen F. Austin	D21 at Arizona	J22 Air Force	F19 Utah
N26-27 Lobo Classic	D23 New Mexico State	J29 BYU	F26 San Diego State
D1 at Texas-El Paso	D29-30 Lobo Invitational	J31 at Utah	M2 Colorado State
D8 at New Mexico St.	J2 Washington	F5 at San Diego State	M4 at UNLV
D11 Southern Utah	J10 at Colorado State	F12 at Air Force	
	J13 at Wyoming	F14 Wyoming	

3. UNLV

NATIONAL RANK 50

Frontcourt: Kaspars Kambala, coming back from knee surgery, is a banger with a tremendous work ethic. He sacrifices his body on both ends of the court. Issiah Epps, Donovan Stewart and Chris Richardson need to play at a higher level as their minutes increase. Transfer Lou Kelly faces the challenge of filling Shawn Marion's void. Kelly averaged 26 points in junior college, and some think he's good enough to play in the NBA now. He could be one of the league's best and provide some offensive fireworks. But he may not be eligible until December, as he's finishing up work on his associate's degree.

Backcourt: Point guard Mark Dickel was among the WAC's assist leaders, and he shot extremely well until late in the season when he ran out of gas. He has support from junior-college transfer Trevor Diggs, who can play both backcourt spots and has a great feel for the game. Kenny Dye will be the shooting guard. He has great range on his jumper and can take people to the basket. Danny Brotherson also can stroke it as well as pass it. Transfer Mike Garrett needs to get his junior-college degree. Bill Bayno likes his game. If Garrett gets eligible, the team gets better.

Key to success: The talent appears to be there. But these guys need to get along and play together. Last year's team had talent, but it didn't mesh on game night. One intangible is the school is going through a preliminary NCAA investigation. If it leads to a letter of official inquiry, it could be a distraction.

Outlook: UNLV doesn't have a tough schedule. If the talent from this hardcore junior-college recruiting effort is legit, the team should get 20 wins and postseason consideration.

Rebels DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bill Bayno (68-52, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-13. WAC: 9-5/T1st Mountain Division.
Last league title: 1992 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Las Vegas, Nev.
Home court: Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	G	Marcus Banks	6-2	Fr.	Can play 1 or 2, good range, solid defense.					
12	G	Vince Booker	6-1	So.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
5	G	Danny Brotherson	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Utah Valley State College.					
11	G	Mark Dickel*	6-2	Sr.	6.5	2.8	6.6	43.1	50.7	33.8
3	G	Trevor Diggs	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Kilgore (Texas) College.					
13	F	Sylvester Dotson	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Kilgore (Texas) College.					
30	G	Kenny Dye	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Connors State College.					
33	C	Issiah Epps	6-10	Sr.	2.3	2.2	0.1	53.7	69.6	0.00
42	F	Oscar Garcia	6-7	Fr.	Fundamentally sound, solid role player.					
00	G	Mike Garrett	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from Fresno (Calif.) City College.					
10	F	Dalron Johnson	6-9	Fr.	Quick, can run the floor, nice touch around hoop.					
34	F/C	Kaspars Kambala*	6-9	Jr.	12.8	6.5	0.6	64.5	63.6	0.00
15	F	Louis Kelly	6-5	So.	Transferred from San Bernardino Valley College.					
1	F	Chris Popoola	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Los Angeles City College.					
20	F	Chris Richardson	6-6	So.	1.7	1.4	0.3	48.3	46.7	33.3
22	F	Ra'oof Sadat	6-8	Jr.	Redshirted after transfer from San Francisco.					
14	F	Donovan Stewart	6-4	Jr.	4.5	2.4	0.8	45.4	46.2	21.7

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Edwin Daniels	6-0	7.4	2.4	3.3	39.3	56.1	30.0
G	Desmond Herod	6-5	5.5	1.3	0.6	37.3	75.0	34.8
G	Brian Keefe*	6-4	6.4	1.2	1.4	38.5	64.7	35.2
F	Shawn Marion*	6-7	18.7	9.3	1.2	52.9	73.0	29.9
F	Kevin Simmons*	6-8	12.7	7.2	2.8	38.9	70.3	31.2

Schedule

N19 Miss. Valley St.	Classic	Kentucky	J22 Air Force	F17 at Air Force
N21 Fairfield	D15 Austin Peay	J2 at Cincinnati	J29 San Diego St.	F19 at New Mexico
N24 UNLV	D18 Oklahoma State	J4 High Point	F3 at Colorado St.	F22 Florida Atlantic
N28 Georgetown	D21 Cal Poly	J13 at BYU	F5 at Wyoming	F26 at San Diego St.
D3-4 Food Lion	D28 Eastern	J15 at Utah	F10 BYU	M2 Colorado State
		J20 New Mexico	F12 Utah	

4. Wyoming

NATIONAL RANK 64

Frontcourt: Center Ugo Udezue blossomed last year, scoring inside, hitting the boards and blocking shots. He is just starting to realize his potential and could be playing himself into a pro career if he continues to progress. But he's still prone to foul trouble. Josh Davis was a pleasant surprise, stepping in at power forward. It was enough to send steady Justin French to the bench and keep swingman Bradley Mann in a backup role.

Backcourt: Vapor-quick Chris McMillian teams with Anthony Blakes to provide a devastating 1-2 punch. The tandem may be one of the best. With Andy Young healthy and Brett McFall making nice progress, there is depth to go with the talent. Mann is a great streak shooter off the bench, and at 6-5, he gives smaller guards trouble as he can shoot over them from anywhere. Freshman swingman Aaron Abrams will add perimeter scoring. And playing behind Blakes, Abrams will not be rushed. But don't be surprised if he is starting by the time league play begins. Coach Steve McClain is that high on him.

Key to success: Keeping the players healthy is a big key. So many players were banged up that four starters missed stretches last season. Should everyone stay healthy, Wyoming has a legitimate shot to win 20 games and get to the NCAAs.

Outlook: With all five starters back, the return of Young at point guard, the addition of Abrams and the confidence that the system works, McClain's second season should produce positive results. Wyoming should still be playing in mid-March. And if UNLV or New Mexico falters, the stage is set for Wyoming in the Mountain West's upper class.

Cowboys DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve McClain (18-10, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 18-10. WAC: 7-7/T4th Mountain Division. Lost to Oregon in NIT 2nd round.
Last league title: 1988 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Laramie, Wyo.
Home court: Arena Auditorium (15,028).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G/F	Aaron Abrams	6-4	Fr.	He averaged 20 points, eight boards last year.					
	G	Marc Bailey	6-4	Fr.	Averaged state of Wyoming—best 28.4 points.					
5	G	Anthony Blakes*	6-2	Jr.	11.4	7.4	4.9	42.0	65.2	36.0
22	F	Josh Davis*	6-8	So.	8.6	6.0	1.0	47.0	56.6	28.3
40	F	Justin French	6-6	Jr.	4.8	3.3	1.1	40.4	81.3	32.7
0	F	LeDarion Jones*	6-7	Jr.	10.8	5.7	1.2	44.8	51.7	25.0
33	F/C	Antone Lostetter	6-8	Jr.	2.0	1.5	0.8	40.0	52.0	0.00
52	G/F	Bradley Mann	6-6	Jr.	7.9	2.6	1.9	38.1	84.8	38.3
14	G	Brett McFall	6-0	So.	4.9	2.2	3.3	34.9	79.5	25.4
10	G	Chris McMillian*	5-10	So.	9.5	3.4	4.6	35.8	73.0	27.4
21	F/C	John Pettersson	6-9	So.	4.0	2.2	0.4	48.0	70.8	33.3
4	C	Ugo Udezue*	6-8	So.	20.5	7.4	1.1	47.4	59.8	25.0
3	G	Andy Young	6-0	Jr.	3.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.00	50.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
50	Marty Kleeman	6-6	0.4	0.1	0.1	50.0	50.0	0.00
13	Levi Porter	6-3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.00	0.00	0.00

Schedule

N19 NW Louisiana	D18 at Indiana	J15 Colorado State	F17 at Utah
N26-28 Hawaii Pacific	D20 at Oregon State	J20 Utah	F19 at BYU
Thanksgiving Classic	D22 at Denver	J27 at New Mexico	F24 New Mexico
D4 Nevada	D30 Samford	J29 at Air Force	F26 Air Force
D7 Mount St. Mary's	J3 at Idaho State	F3 San Diego State	M2 at San Diego State
D11 at Montana State	J8 North Texas	F5 UNLV	M4 at UNLV
	J11 at Wichita State	F12 at Colorado State	

5. Colorado State

NATIONAL RANK 131

Frontcourt: This is a very solid group and the backbone of the team. Now that Ceedric Goodwyn has a year of Division I ball under his belt, he could really stand out, especially considering he will be more of a focal point in Ritchie McKay's offense. And if center John Ford can pick up where he left off, the Rams have a solid duo inside. Garrett Patik, the team's leading rebounder, is back and should return to the starting lineup after giving way to Goodwyn when McKay went with a three-guard set for the second half of the season. Joining the veteran trio is freshman Brian Greene. He's a two-time state player of the year and was considered one of the top 25 forwards in the country by recruiting services.

Backcourt: It will be tough to replace the leadership Milt Palacio and Andre McKanstry provided night after night. John Sivesind is the logical target to get a lot of touches. He made 75 3-pointers last year. The hope is freshman Andy Birley can lend a hand right off the bat with Derrick Mansell and Aki Palmer.

Key to success: If someone steps up in the backcourt who can play good defense, get the ball to Goodwyn and Sivesind and keep mistakes to a minimum, Colorado State remains a formidable opponent. Otherwise, the Rams will struggle. It's going to take time for whoever inherits the point guard spot to mesh with his new teammates. It's also important the Rams continue to get production up front, namely from Patik and Ford.

Outlook: McKay has put together a very good recruiting class and has talent returning. He also gained familiarity with his opponents, but he hasn't played Utah or New Mexico. How well the team does against those schools and UNLV may determine its fate.

Rams DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Ritchie McKay (19-11, 1 year; 43-40 overall, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 19-11. WAC: 7-7/T4th Mountain Division. Lost to California in NIT 3rd round.
Last league title: 1990 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Fort Collins, Colo.
Home court: Moby Arena (8,745).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	G	Andy Birley	6-4	Fr.	Shot 43 percent from 3-point arc as a senior.					
44	F	David Fisher	6-10	Jr.	2.2	2.2	0.3	60.0	53.1	0
54	C	John Ford*	6-9	Sr.	3.8	3.6	0.6	55.9	53.8	0
45	F	Ceedric Goodwyn*	6-8	Sr.	14.0	4.4	1.7	53.1	65.5	42.9
3	G	Ron Grady	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Oregon State.					
	F	Brian Greene	6-8	Fr.	Averaged 19.9 points and 10.4 rebounds.					
15	F	R'Cell Harris	6-8	Jr.	Transferred from West Valley JC.					
23	F	Shawn Harris	6-6	Sr.	3.9	2.3	0.4	57.1	52.1	33.3
14	G	Derrick Mansell	6-1	Fr.	Averaged 12 points and eight assists as a senior.					
30	F/C	Paul Martin	6-9	Jr.	0.8	0.9	0.1	42.9	58.3	0
33	G	Nick Mayer	6-0	Jr.	0.3	0.1	0.1	16.7	50.0	16.7
10	G	Aki Palmer	5-9	So.	Transferred from Eastern Wyoming JC.					
40	F	Garrett Patik	6-7	Jr.	4.8	5.2	1.4	37.2	58.3	23.5
32	G	John Sivesind*	6-3	Jr.	10.3	3.4	1.8	39.5	73.6	40.8
12	G	Erik Smith	6-3	So.	1.7	1.1	0.5	27.4	40.0	25.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Andre McKanstry*	6-1	13.5	4.5	2.3	43.8	74.2	30.6
G	Milt Palacio*	6-3	18.4	5.1	4.3	45.0	75.4	34.5

Schedule

N20 Seattle	D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic	J22 Utah	F19 at Utah
N27-28 Sparkletts Invit.	D30 Washington State	J27 at Air Force	F24 Air Force
D1 at Arizona State	J6 Texas-Pan Amer.	J29 at New Mexico	F26 New Mexico
D4 Oregon State	J8 Centenary	F3 UNLV	M2 at UNLV
D8 Colorado	J15 at Wyoming	F5 San Diego State	M5 at San Diego State
D18 at Denver	J20 BYU	F12 Wyoming	
		F17 at BYU	

6. BYU

NATIONAL RANK 199

Frontcourt: All three starters return, led by Mekeli Wesley and Silester Rivers. Swingman Nathan Cooper rounds out an athletic trio that can create matchup problems with bigger opponents. Whatever Wesley and Rivers give up in size, they compensate for with their quickness and ability to elevate. They are the go-to guys. Bret Jepsen, a 6-11 center, is back, and he gives the team the necessary size in the middle. Mark Michaelis played in 28 games and will serve as an experienced backup. Eric Nielsen, who averaged 8.0 points a game as a freshman, is back from his Mormon Church mission and should help.

Backcourt: Mark Bigelow was the WAC Pacific Freshman of the Year, but he will be on a church mission. The loss is huge. Bigelow is an excellent player who played with much more maturity than the typical freshman. Someone has to take over, and the hope is Terrell Lyday from Fresno City College will. Lyday averaged nearly 18 points, and if he can come close to those numbers at BYU, the team will be in good shape. Michael Vranes is back to play the off-guard spot. Todd Christensen did a good job off the bench last year, and he'll stay in that role.

Key to success: If Lyday can produce, the Cougars' chances for success improve greatly. But more than likely, it will be up to Rivers and Wesley to make BYU competitive. As they go, so go the Cougars.

Outlook: Slowly, coach Steve Cleveland is building the program back. He was able to squeeze a 12-16 season out of last year's team. Look for similar results, but it could take Lyday time to adjust to this level of play.

Cougars DATA

Coach: Steve Cleveland (21-37, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 12-16. WAC: 6-8/fifth in Pacific Division.
Last league title: 1993 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Provo, Utah.
Home court: Marriott Center (22,700).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
5	G	Lance Archibald	6-4	Sr.	1.8	0.8	0.3	33.3	70.0	16.7
4	G	Todd Christensen	6-1	Jr.	7.2	2.0	1.4	41.0	80.0	37.5
42	G/F	Nathan Cooper*	6-5	Jr.	9.9	4.5	1.7	48.1	77.9	39.3
55	C	Bret Jepsen	6-11	Sr.	3.5	3.5	0.1	48.4	73.3	0
3	G	Terrell Lyday	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Fresno City College.					
50	C	Mark Michaelis	6-10	Jr.	2.3	2.1	0.3	43.3	41.7	50.0
32	G	Matt Montague	6-1	So.	On church mission during 1998-99 season.					
24	G	David Nielsen	6-4	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
25	F	Eric Nielsen	6-8	So.	On church mission during 1998-99 season.					
35	F	Silester Rivers*	6-7	Sr.	11.0	5.7	0.9	55.9	58..8	0
13	G	Michael Vranes*	6-3	So.	10.9	3.1	3.2	43.3	65.0	41.7
15	F	Mekeli Wesley*	6-9	Jr.	11.0	4.9	1.3	41.7	83.8	28.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Mark Bigelow*	6-6	15.0	6.3	2.0	43.9	79.3	38.9
G	Brian Dignan	6-3	2.5	0.8	1.9	42.1	85.0	20.0

Schedule

N20 UC Riverside	D18 South Carolina St.	J13 UNLV	F10 at UNLV
N24 Southern Utah	D21 at South Alabama	J15 San Diego State	F12 at San Diego State
D1 at Arizona	D23 at Florida Interntnl.	J20 at Colorado State	F17 Colorado State
D4 at Denver	D29 at UC Santa	J22 at Wyoming	F19 Wyoming
D7 Arizona State	Barbara	J29 at Utah	F26 Utah
D10-11 Cougar Classic	J5 UC Irvine	F3 Air Force	M2 at Air Force
	J8 at Utah State	F5 New Mexico	M4 at New Mexico

7. Air Force

NATIONAL RANK 250

Frontcourt: Tyron Wright is the go-to guy, and he is emerging as one of the conference's better players. He shoots well with range, and he can score attacking the basket. A big loss was leading rebounder and shot blocker David Schuck, who transferred to UNC-Greensboro. He was the most fundamentally sound player in the program. Someone else will need to do the dirty work on the boards. Billy Humphrey brings an emotional edge, and he's not afraid to mix it up underneath. Jacob Leonard will be given every opportunity to play steady minutes. Miguel Garcia never blossomed at the point—now he'll spell Wright at small forward.

Backcourt: The team didn't want to rush Jarvis Croff, but he was too good to limit his minutes. Coach Reggie Minton is looking for a big year from the junior, and Croff will start. Teams will be looking to shut Wright down, so it's important that Croff be a threat every night to put up big numbers. Lawrence Yazzie, who can shoot from downtown, is a battler, diving all over the court for loose balls and causing havoc. He epitomizes the Academy's hustle and desire. Selwyn Mansell will start at point guard. His job is to get the ball to Wright and Croff as often as possible.

Key to success: If the team continues to build its scoring output, it could translate into a few more wins. Croff figures to get more shots, and Wright will get the most touches. Perhaps one of the newcomers can turn the offense into a triple-threat scenario.

Outlook: Even though Minton's teams play hard every night, the talent simply isn't there. But with San Diego State rebuilding and two high-quality players in Wright and Croff, there may be enough to stay out of the Mountain West cellar.

Falcons DATA

Coach: Reggie Minton (142-276, 15 years; 153-291 overall, 16 years).
1998-99 record: 10-16. WAC: 2-12/8th Mountain Division.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Home court: Clune Arena (6,002).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
3	G	Eric Baugh	5-11	Jr.	1.0	0.2	0.2	36.4	100	28.6
24	G	Jarvis Croff*	6-4	Jr.	14.2	5.2	1.1	37.6	67.1	41.7
4	G/F	Miguel Garcia	6-6	Sr.	5.8	4.0	1.5	36.5	69.5	37.8
44	F	Billy Humphrey*	6-6	Sr.	6.9	5.0	0.5	35.2	67.6	25.4
5	G	Nathan Koran	6-0	Sr.	2.2	1.1	0.6	50.0	100	57.1
25	F	Jacob Leonard	6-8	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	G	Selwyn Mansell	5-9	So.	1.2	0.2	0.4	18.2	83.3	28.6
30	F	Byron Nicholson	6-6	Jr.	2.0	3.0	0.1	36.6	47.8	0.0
33	F	Tyron Wright*	6-4	Sr.	18.2	6.0	2.4	41.1	71.1	28.1
21	G	Lawrence Yazzie	5-10	Sr.	3.2	0.4	0.2	36.1	62.5	38.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Glen Gonzales*	6-0	3.9	1.8	1.6	30.8	82.1	25.9
G	Dylan Pope	6-3	7.6	1.9	1.4	35.4	87.3	30.2
F/C	David Schuck*	6-8	6.3	8.7	0.9	37.9	69.7	34.8
Louis Stewart		6-7	8.1	3.3	1.8	31.3	54.9	21.1

Schedule

N13 at St. Louis	D14 South Carolina St.	J27 Colorado State	F24 at Colorado State
N14 Northern Iowa*	D28 at Central Conn. St.	J29 Wyoming	F26 at Wyoming
N20 Doane College	D30 at Dartmouth	F3 at BYU	M2 BYU
N27 at Navy	J5 at Wofford	F5 at Utah	M4 Utah
D2 Regis	J10 Denver	F10 at Denver	*St. Louis.
D8 Long Beach State	J15 at New Mexico	F12 New Mexico	
D11 Portland State	J20 at San Diego State	F17 UNLV	
	J22 at UNLV	F19 San Diego State	

8. San Diego State

NATIONAL RANK 254

Frontcourt: New coach Steve Fisher finds himself with youth everywhere. But there's a little experience at center—junior Marcelo Correa has played two years of Division I ball and averaged five rebounds a game for a team that struggled to score and rebound. Myron Epps had a very good freshman year on a very bad team. He has a bright future, and Fisher has someone he can work with. On any given night last season, Vincent Okotie would be brilliant; the next, he was lost. If he learns anything from last year and develops some consistency, he has a shot to be a decent player. But Fisher needs help now, and he's hoping Jim Roban from Dixie College in Utah can give the Aztecs some scoring punch. Freshman Eric Rohwer adds size up front.

Backcourt: Donte Wilson didn't have a lot of support around him last year, so it's hard to put the knock on him. He's going to stay on the floor under Fisher. Who plays alongside him will be interesting. There's not a lot of depth, so the likelihood is Wilson, Bradley Jackson and Michael Marion will get the bulk of the minutes in different combinations.

Key to success: Under former coach Fred Trenkle, the Aztecs always played hard, so this isn't about effort. It's about producing and executing. If the Aztecs improve in those areas, they will win a few more games. But it may take time.

Outlook: The team has had one winning season in 15 years, and it is coming off a 4-22 effort. Fisher's late arrival virtually guarantees the Aztecs are going to be status quo for their first season in the Mountain West. How long they stay at the bottom will depend on Fisher's ability to wield the magic he did at Michigan.

Aztecs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve Fisher (first year; 184-82 overall, 9 years; 20-6 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with Michigan in 1989).
1998-99 record: 4-22. WAC: 2-12/8th Pacific Division.
Last league title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association). **Last NCAA appearance:** 1985. **Site:** San Diego. **Home court:** Cox Arena (12,414).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	G	David Abramowitz	6-0	So.	5.3	1.7	2.3	36.4	73.3	33.3
21	G	Jeffrey Berokoff	6-3	So.	4.0	2.0	1.6	34.0	61.2	23.4
42	C	Marcelo Correa*	6-10	Jr.	6.9	4.6	.9	49.2	70.7	0
33	F	Myron Epps*	6-6	So.	11.8	5.6	.5	48.1	51.7	0
	G	Bradley Jackson	5-10	Fr.	Will challenge for starting point guard spot.					
52	C	Joe Mann	6-10	So.	2.2	2.1	.12	42.9	52.8	0
	G	Michael Marion	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from College of Eastern Utah.					
34	F	Vincent Okotie*	6-7	So.	8.5	4.7	1.0	44.7	61.5	10.0
	F	Jim Roban	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Dixie College.					
	F	Eric Rohwer	6-9	Fr.	Will add depth at power forward.					
25	F	Walter Small	6-4	So.	2.8	1.2	.4	45.7	55.0	30.0
12	F	Julien Sormonte	6-6	So.	2.0	2.7	.3	20.0	44.4	0
4	G	Donte Wilson*	6-3	Jr.	8.7	2.1	2.9	33.0	69.9	31.2

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Matt Watts*	6-3	14.5	3.4	2.4	40.3	70.0	29.1

Schedule

N30 at New Mexico St.	D22 UC Santa Barbara	J15 at BYU	F12 BYU
D4 at San Diego	D27 Ball State	J20 New Mexico	F17 at New Mexico
D12 at Oklahoma State	D30 Loyola Marymount	J22 Air Force	F19 at Air Force
D16 South Carolina St.	J2 High Point	J29 at UNLV	F26 UNLV
D18 at Arizona State	J5 Cal State Fullerton	F3 at Wyoming	M2 Wyoming
D20 USC	J8 at Pacific	F5 at Colorado State	M5 Colorado State
	J13 at Utah	F10 Utah	

TSNumbers

1,500/700

Attainable numbers in career points and rebounds for New Mexico's Lamont Long this season. Long, who averaged 16.8 points and 6.5 rebounds in 1998-99, needs 258 points and 169 rebounds to become the sixth Lobo—along with Mel Daniels, Willie Long, Luc Longley, Clayton Shields and Kenny Thomas—to reach those milestones. If he continues to avoid foul trouble—he has yet to foul out in 92 career games—Long should gain the necessary playing time to reach the marks and, at 6-4, become the shortest member of the club.



JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Pac-10

RANK 3

Ascending: Oregon State. The buzz in Corvallis may be centered around the arrival of football coach Dennis Erickson these days, but Eddie Payne's unselfish, unflashy Beavers are nearly unbeatable at Gill Coliseum. Fielding a better team without Corey Benjamin last year, Payne has found a happy niche with gritty, defensive-minded, halfcourt players.

Descending: Washington. Two seasons ago, the Huskies were a basket from the Elite Eight. With the loss of two top scorers, the transfer of point guard Dan Dickau and a slim recruiting class, the postseason is no longer a given.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Arizona's Jason Terry. Freshman Jason Gardner, Indiana's Mr. Basketball, can handle the point guard stuff immediately. But somebody else, possibly guard Ruben Douglas or forward Richard Jefferson, must help compensate for Terry's lost scoring.

Most underrated player: Oregon's A.D. Smith. He won't catch your eye the way flashy teammates Alex Scales and Freddie Jones will, but he'll be all over the box score. Smith is a versatile power forward who can shoot from the perimeter and find a number of other ways to get the job done.

Most overrated player: Washington's Deon Luton. To be fair, he has improved defensively and come a long way from his days as a high school center. But he's still a somewhat one-dimensional spot-up shooter who must start putting the ball on the floor more often to survive against more pressure this season.

Coach on the hot seat: Henry Bibby, USC. One of the best game coaches in the league, Bibby hasn't been able to keep the Trojans in the league's upper division. They underachieved early in league play last season before finishing strongly and reaching the NIT. Two onetime starters, Kevin Augustine and Greg Lakey, have transferred, too.

Best bets: With no other high-scoring teammates around him, Arizona State's Eddie House will run away with the conference scoring title. ... Financial pressures will keep mounting for the Pac-10 to reinstitute a postseason tournament, despite the constant protests of Arizona's Lute Olson and Stanford's Mike Montgomery. ... Oregon State fans will finally realize they have a decent team and stop rushing the court after every win. They'll also have more security in their faces. ... Three-point shooting will help Washington State improve its four-win conference mark, and the Cougars will shock at least one team on its home court. ... Always sharp in November, Arizona will win its third preseason NIT of the 1990s. ... Without Final Four hype, media traffic at Maples Pavilion will be light until, as Montgomery will grumpily note, the San Francisco 49ers' season ends.

Odds and ends: Stanford's 1999 Pac-10 title was its first since 1963, when it tied UCLA. It was the Cardinal's first outright since it won the Athletic Association of Western Universities crown in 1942, when Stanford also won its only national title. ... Cal and its donors spent $50 million turning old Harmon Gym into Haas Pavilion. ... Oregon's Smith already graduated with a business administration degree, while Arizona's Josh Pastner intends to finish his masters within his four years; he graduated last December. ... Pastner also coached the Houston Hoops AAU summer-league team to a surprise win at Nike's elite San Diego tournament in July. ... Stanford's Mark Madsen played for the U.S. World University Games team that went 8-0, and teammate-to-be Casey Jacobsen and Arizona's Michael Wright represented the 19-under U.S. team in the Junior World Championships.

By Bruce Pascoe *Arizona Daily Star*

Predictions

1. Arizona	6. USC
2. Stanford	7. California
3. UCLA	8. Washington
4. Oregon	9. Arizona State
5. Oregon State	10. Washington State

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Eddie House, Arizona State	6-1	180	Sr.
G	Deaundra Tanner, Oregon State	6-1	205	Jr.
C	Loren Woods, Arizona	7-1	245	Jr.
F	Michael Wright, Arizona	6-7	240	So.
F	Mark Madsen, Stanford	6-9	235	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Earl Watson, UCLA	6-0	183	Jr.
G	Frederick Jones, Oregon	6-4	210	So.
C/F	Jerome Moiso, UCLA	6-11	230	So.
F	JaRon Rush, UCLA	6-6	210	So.
C	Brian Scalabrine, USC	6-9	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

Mark Madsen, F, Stanford

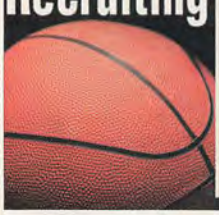
Newcomer of the Year

Loren Woods, C, Arizona

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jan-Michael Thomas, Washington State
Best rebounder: Mark Madsen, Stanford
Best playmaker: Deaundra Tanner, Oregon State
Best defender: Eddie House, Arizona State
Best leaper: Jeff Trepagnier, USC
Most versatile: A.D. Smith, Oregon
Most flamboyant: JaRon Rush, UCLA
Best NBA prospect: Michael Wright, Arizona

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Stanford: Julius Barnes and Justin Davis upgrade athleticism.
2. Arizona: Indiana's Mr. Basketball, Jason Gardner, takes over at point.
3. Arizona State: Local Top 40 player Donnell Knight among talented crop.
4. UCLA: Land All-American Jason Kapono and Spencer Gloger.
5. Oregon State: Jimmie Haywood is quick and adds perimeter shooting.
6. USC: Wing Nate Hair is ready to help.
7. California: Pipeline to L.A. Rockfish team, including Brian Wethers.
8. Oregon: Went to junior colleges and landed some impact players.
9. Washington: Oregon prep star Ben Coffee.
10. Washington State: Paul Graham brings in his son and Tyrone Evans.

1. Arizona

NATIONAL RANK 5

Schedule

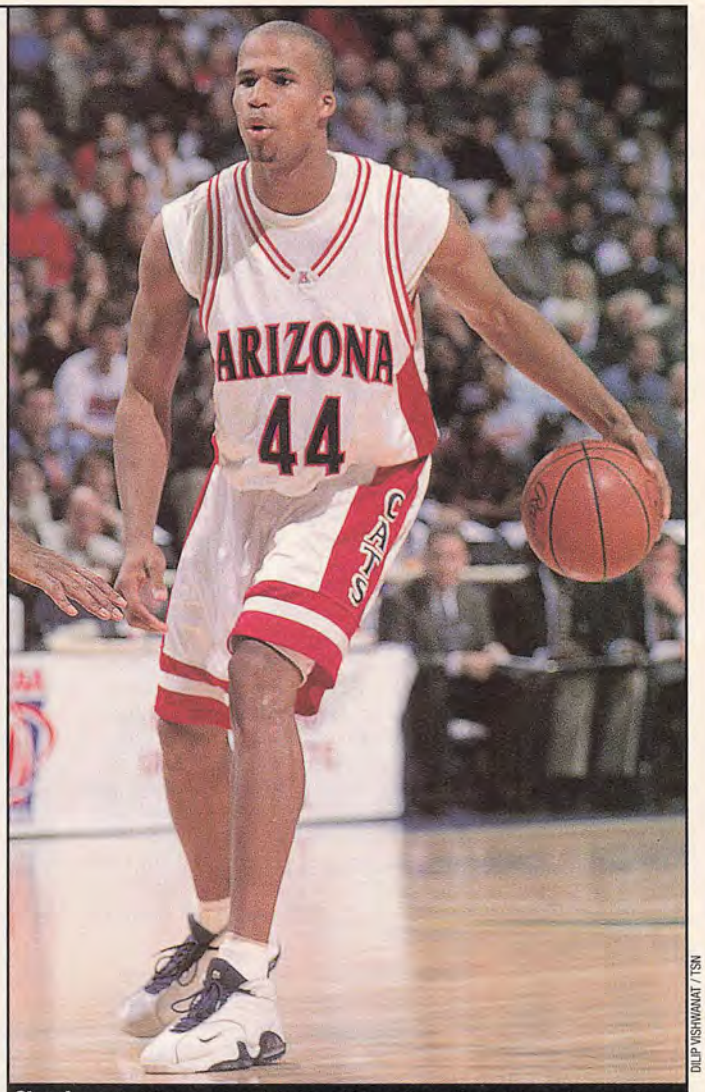
N16-26 Preseason NIT
D1 Brigham Young
D4 at Texas
D7 Connecticut*
D11 Michigan State
D13 IUPUI
D18 Nebraska‡
D21 New Mexico
D28-30 Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic
J6 at California
J8 at Stanford
J13 Washington State
J15 Washington
J20 at USC
J22 at UCLA
J26 at Arizona State
J29 at Louisiana State
F3 Oregon
F5 Oregon State
F10 at Washington
F12 at Washington State
F17 USC
F19 UCLA
F26 Arizona State
M2 at Oregon State
M4 at Oregon
M9 Stanford
M11 California
*Chicago
‡Las Vegas

Frontcourt: Lute Olson might be known for developing NBA-caliber backcourts—with former standouts such as Damon Stoudamire, Mike Bibby and Jason Terry—but Olson's current stars are inside, power forward Michael Wright and center Loren Woods. Wright is a solid rebounder and a nearly unstoppable offensive presence around the basket; he was far more consistent than most freshmen last year, then sharpened his skills as the leading scorer for the second-place U.S. team at the Junior World Championships in Portugal. Woods, the onetime heir apparent to Tim Duncan at Wake Forest, can run the floor, shoot and pass well for a legit 7-footer. His biggest obstacle probably will be mental: Woods was known to put too much pressure on himself at Wake Forest and will have to overcome a year of redshirt rust. Arizona will miss fiery backup forward Gene Edgerson, who is expected to redshirt to pursue a student-teaching internship, but junior Justin Wessel, redshirt freshman Luke Walton and sophomore Rick Anderson proved themselves capable role players last year. Freshman Robertas Javtokas, a relatively unknown Lithuanian, runs the floor well enough to earn double-digit minutes as a backup, too. The heady Walton proved himself quickly in practice late last season after sitting out three months with a foot injury that eerily mirrored one suffered by his father, Bill, in the NBA. Richard Jefferson showed flashes of brilliance as a slasher but was plagued by inconsistency and off-court immaturity last season. Arizona coaches hope redshirting Indiana transfer Luke Recker lights a fire under him in practice.

Backcourt: How convenient—just when the Wildcats lose another heart-and-soul player, Terry, they pull in yet another ready-for-prime-time point guard to take his place. Jason Gardner won't score as much as Terry did, but he's a master ballhandler with an unselfish, lead-by-example style. If Ruben Douglas can pick up where he left off, averaging 16.5 points over the final four regular-season games, the Wildcats' revolving door at off-guard may close for good. But because there are no guarantees about Douglas' shooting or aggressiveness, Arizona also brought in junior-college shooter Lamont Frazier to help. Freshman Gilbert Arenas, 17, will challenge for time as well, but he will have a huge jump to make from a weak prep league. Anderson, a lanky 6-8 surfer from Long Beach with surprisingly smooth moves, could create interesting matchups at either wing spot.

Key to success: With Arizona playing one of its most difficult non-conference schedules, Gardner gets zero time to behave like a freshman, and Woods will be needed in top form. But mostly, the Wildcats will need leadership. Off the court, they'll get plenty from walk-on guard Josh Pastner, their relentlessly energetic player/coach, but on the court, they will miss the passion and intensity of Terry and Edgerson greatly.

Outlook: Those who have watched Olson thrive at Arizona know not to let a young roster fool them. Usually, Olson is at his best with younger players, as he proved with last year's second-place finisher, and this time there should be just enough experience along with the usual boatload of talent to put the Wildcats back in the league's top seat.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Stepping up: *Jefferson, whose talent is not in question, will get a chance to show the Wildcats he has matured on and off the court.*

Wildcats DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Lute Olson (395-120, 16 years; 587-212 overall, 26 years; 31-20 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1997).
1998-99 record: 22-7. Pac-10: 13-5/2nd. Lost to Oklahoma in NCAA Midwest first round.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.
Site: Tucson, Ariz.
Home court: McKale Center (14,489).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
35	G/F	Rick Anderson	6-8	So.	2.6	1.9	0.9	34.8	75.0	28.6
0	G	Gilbert Arenas	6-4	Fr.	Averaged 33.4 ppg in senior prep season.					
15	G	John Ash	5-10	Jr.	1.0	0.5	0.0	50.0	57.1	50.0
5	G	Ruben Douglas*	6-4	So.	8.0	2.1	2.0	38.6	60.8	33.3
	G	Lamont Frazier	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Lon Morris JC.					
22	G	Jason Gardner	5-11	Fr.	Named Mr. Basketball in Indiana last season.					
	C	Robertas Javtokas	6-10	Fr.	Strong, mobile big man from Lithuania.					
44	F	Richard Jefferson*	6-7	So.	11.3	4.8	2.9	49.5	77.6	36.4
12	G	Josh Pastner	5-11	Sr.	0.7	0.7	0.0	33.3	00.0	00.0
4	F	Luke Walton	6-8	Fr.	Redshirted with foot injury in 1998-99.					
30	F	Justin Wessel	6-8	Jr.	3.1	2.7	0.9	48.0	56.0	27.3
3	C	Loren Woods	7-1	Jr.	Transferred from Wake Forest.					
21	F	Michael Wright*	6-7	So.	13.9	8.8	0.3	55.6	73.6	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	A.J. Bramlett*	6-11	14.2	9.4	1.2	53.5	57.6	00.0
G	Jason Stewart	5-11	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	00.0
G	Jason Terry*	6-2	21.9	3.3	5.5	44.3	83.9	39.8
G	Traves Wilson	6-2	Transferred to Illinois State.					

2. Stanford

NATIONAL RANK 9

Schedule

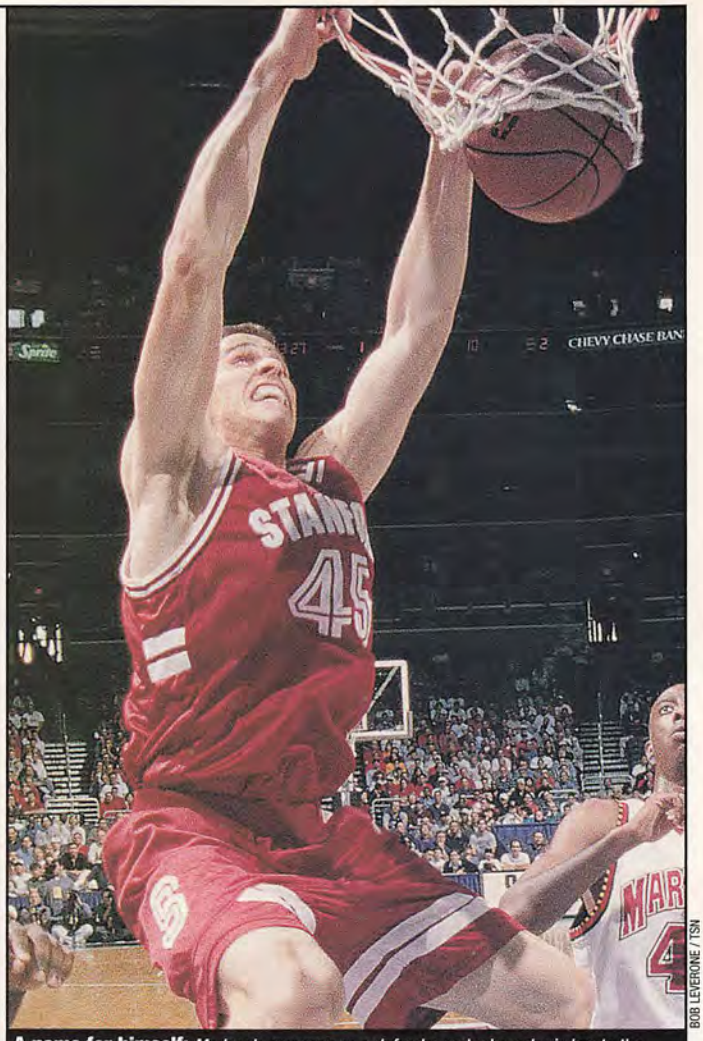
N11-12 Coaches vs. Cancer
N20 at Santa Barbara
N24 Cal State Bakersfield
N27 Auburn*
D11 at Georgia Tech
D16 Nevada
D18 Sacramento State
D21 Alabama†
D29-30 Stanford Invitational
J6 Arizona State
J8 Arizona
J13 at Oregon State
J15 at Oregon
J22 at California
J27 Washington
J29 Washington State
F3 at UCLA
F5 at USC
F10 Oregon
F12 Oregon State
F19 California
F24 at Washington State
F26 at Washington
M2 USC
M4 UCLA
M9 at Arizona
M11 at Arizona State
*in Anaheim, Calif.
†in Oakland, Calif.

Frontcourt: Departed center Tim Young was the Cardinal's all-time leading shot blocker, its second-leading career rebounder and a virtual institution in the post. Here's the scary part: Stanford's interior will be better without him this season. Famously ferocious power forward Mark Madsen will be joined on a full-time basis by the Collins brothers, Jarron and Jason, to give the Cardinal offense three pivots and a much less predictable look. Madsen established himself on the way to the 1998 Final Four as a top-notch rebounder and defensive presence who is tough to stop around the basket. Although the Collinses have been decidedly lower-profile—Jason missed his first two seasons with injuries, and Jarron came off the bench—that situation is about to change in a hurry. Jason is more of a back-to-the-basket type who will essentially fill Young's spot, and Jarron can drive to the basket with force. While Madsen may become the "small" forward, Stanford also can go with a smaller lineup by placing well-rounded freshman Casey Jacobsen or one of the veteran shooters, David Moseley or Ryan Mendez, at the 3-spot. Jacobsen is expected to make an immediate impact. His 3,284 career points at Glendora High School are second all-time in California history, and he was the state Player of the Year. Moseley loves to shoot and is an active defender. His 6.2 points per game last season were tops among the reserves.

Backcourt: Michael McDonald is the most likely successor in the Brevin Knight-Arthur Lee point guard lineage, but he won't have an easy time holding on to the job. McDonald is quicker and a better shooter than Tony Giovacchini, the other returning point guard candidate, but he missed half of last season with a sprained foot and wasn't able to benefit much from Lee's presence in practice. Giovacchini filled in capably as a freshman in Lee's absence, appearing comfortable in half-court offenses. Then there is freshman Julius Barnes, who already has drawn comparisons with Knight for his athleticism and intensity. Moseley probably will get the starting nod over Mendez on the wing. Although both are excellent shooters, Moseley is the better defender and Mendez missed the middle chunk of last season with a stress reaction in his knee. Jacobsen is among the top reasons why Stanford will have a more athletic look: He is aggressive and scrappy and can hit 3s as well as he drives inside.

Keys to success: If McDonald doesn't step boldly into the point guard role, somebody else will have to. The position is the Cardinal's most pressing question, although whoever takes the job certainly won't have to create much offense. Stanford also must take a deep breath every time Jason Collins hits the floor; a sprained foot cost him 1997-98 and a broken wrist forced him out last season. He has been granted a sixth year of eligibility, but with good health, he probably won't need it.

Outlook: The Cardinal survived the pressure of last season's publicity blitz admirably to win the Pac-10, though they never really improved on their '98 Final Four team. Although there won't be as much hype this time around, Stanford actually will be fielding its most talented team. Youth and inexperience are the only hangups that may keep it from defending its league championship.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

A name for himself: *Madsen's presence as a defender and rebounder is key to the Cardinal's success. But they don't call him "Mad Dog" for nothing.*

Cardinal DATA

*- 1998-99 starter

Coach: Mike Montgomery (261-139, 13 years; 415-216 overall, 21 years; 9-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 26-7. Pac-10: 15-3/1st. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA West second round.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Palo Alto, Calif.
Home court: Maples Pavilion (7,391).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
24	G	Julius Barnes	6-1	Fr.	Athletic point guard with tremendous upside.					
14	G/F	Tyler Besecker	6-6	Fr.	An excellent defender who has a good shot.					
11	C	Curtis Borchardt	6-11	Fr.	28.2 ppg, 14.8 rpg, 5.4 bpg as prep senior.					
31	F	Jarron Collins	6-9	Jr.	5.9	5.2	0.6	49.6	59.4	00.0
34	C	Jason Collins	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted with wrist injury in 1998-99.					
22	F	Justin Davis	6-8	Fr.	A strong rebounder with good leadership skills.					
20	G	Alex Gelbard	6-3	Sr.	0.9	0.1	0.2	25.0	50.0	20.0
25	G	Tony Giovacchini	6-2	So.	1.7	0.9	1.0	25.7	72.7	20.0
23	G/F	Casey Jacobsen	6-6	Fr.	Dropped in 92 3-pointers as prep senior.					
00	F	Joe Kirchofer	6-9	Fr.	Big fella has good range from 17 feet on in.					
3	G/F	Kyle Logan	6-6	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
45	F	Mark Madsen*	6-9	Sr.	13.1	9.0	0.5	60.5	58.3	00.0
4	G	Michael McDonald	6-1	Jr.	3.1	1.3	2.1	28.6	76.9	26.3
32	F/G	Ryan Mendez	6-7	Jr.	Redshirted with knee injury in 1998-99.					
21	G/F	David Moseley	6-4	Sr.	6.2	2.7	1.1	35.8	79.6	30.1

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Arthur Lee*	6-1	13.2	2.2	4.4	39.6	88.6	39.7
F	Peter Sauer*	6-7	8.6	4.3	1.9	41.1	69.4	32.6
F	Mark Seaton	6-9	1.8	2.2	0.3	38.0	36.4	00.0
G	Kris Weems*	6-2	11.1	3.0	2.9	40.3	75.6	38.4
C	Tim Young*	7-2	10.0	7.2	2.0	50.6	82.5	00.0

3. UCLA

NATIONAL RANK 15

Schedule

N23 Fairfield
N27 Iona
D1 Morgan State
D11 Gonzaga
D18 DePaul
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic
D28 Pepperdine
D30 Purdue
J6 at Washington
J8 at Washington State
J12 at USC
J15 at North Carolina
J20 Arizona State
J22 Arizona
J27 at Oregon State
J29 Oregon
F3 Stanford
F5 California
F9 USC
F13 at Syracuse
F17 at Arizona State
F19 at Arizona
F24 Oregon
F26 Oregon State
M2 at California
M4 at Stanford
M9 Washington State
M11 Washington

Frontcourt: If promising big men Jerome Moiso and Dan Gadzuric ever manage to play together at full strength, the Bruins could be scary. After a year of experience, both could be among the nation's dominant inside performers. At 6-11, the wiry and skilled Moiso is among the team's best perimeter shooters. Gadzuric is so ripped he looked more like a veteran NBA post player than a freshman last season, and he may indeed be in the pros before long. But both players were slowed considerably by injuries last season: Moiso with chronic foot trouble, and Gadzuric with torn cartilage in one knee and tendinitis in both knees. Moiso, a laid-back West Indies native, also had to be prodded into shooting at times. He played center while Gadzuric was out but will be more comfortable at forward, combining size and agility with an outside jumper. Of all the many UCLA wing forwards, JaRon Rush's strength and leaping ability make him a candidate to play inside when needed. Rush ended the season playing his best, with three double-doubles in the last four games and averaging 10.2 rebounds in the final nine contests. Matt Barnes has played center at times. Freshman Jason Kapono and former walk-on Sean Farnham, the team's only senior, also will play significant roles. Like Rush, Kapono appears capable of creating his own shots. He is a McDonald's All-America honoree.

Backcourt: While coach Steve Lavin experimented wildly with the starting lineup last season, thanks to injuries as well as his players' inconsistency, guard Earl Watson was always there. Now, without flashy Baron Davis around, his steady, understated game should gain more attention. Watson has been the only Bruin in the past two years to start every game, and his production increased dramatically during his sophomore season. He was the team leader in minutes (34.0), was sixth in the Pac-10 in assists (4.58) and shot 70.3 percent from the free-throw line. "Earl Watson is the complete college basketball player," Lavin says. He will be joined often in the backcourt by Ray Young, one of the best returning shooters, while smooth-shooting freshman Spencer Gloger and Ryan Bailey, a backup point guard, will factor in Lavin's new rotations.

Key to success: Watson will have to become a more vocal leader on the floor in Davis' absence, taking charge of strong-willed players with much less experience. Especially when Gadzuric is out, rebounds are far from a given. Again, UCLA must compensate for its lack of size with its athleticism and enthusiasm.

Outlook: The controversial black uniforms never did help last season, but Lavin does have a knack for getting the Bruins to play hard and overcome obstacles via other means. He will have to direct a bit more this time without Davis running the show, but UCLA probably will be much the same as last year: spectacular at times, out of control at others, but always infinitely interesting to watch.



OTTO GRUELE FOR TSN

The biggest: *Gadzuric was considered by many to be the top freshman big man in the nation last season. The Bruins will expect even more from him this season.*

Bruins DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve Lavin (70-26, 3 years; 5-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-9. Pac-10: 12-6/3rd. Lost to Detroit in NCAA South first round.
Last league title: 1997.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1988.
Site: Los Angeles.
Home court: Pauley Pavilion (12,800).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	G	Ryan Bailey	6-1	Jr.	4.2	1.6	1.7	45.4	58.3	39.3
23	F	Matt Barnes	6-7	So.	3.9	2.9	0.8	43.4	47.8	29.4
30	F	Sean Farnham	6-5½	Sr.	1.6	1.3	0.5	59.1	57.1	00.0
50	C	Dan Gadzuric*	6-10	So.	8.6	5.7	0.7	54.0	50.0	00.0
	F/G	Spencer Gloger	6-6	Fr.	23.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg as high school senior.					
22	G/F	Rico Hines	6-4	Jr.	2.5	1.7	1.0	38.3	43.8	33.3
	F	Jason Kapono	6-8	Fr.	Like O'Bannon brothers, he went to Artesia High.					
3	G/F	Billy Knight	6-5	So.	Redshirted with groin injury in 1998-99.					
0	F/C	Jerome Moiso*	6-11	So.	10.8	5.8	0.9	48.7	61.5	25.0
11	G/F	Todd Ramasar	6-5	Jr.	0.8	0.2	0.0	23.1	66.7	00.0
4	F	JaRon Rush*	6-6	So.	11.4	7.3	0.9	37.2	62.4	26.5
25	G	Earl Watson*	6-0	Jr.	13.3	3.7	4.6	43.5	70.3	32.0
34	G	Ray Young	6-3	So.	5.4	2.6	0.6	46.9	70.4	40.8

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Baron Davis*	6-2½	15.9	3.6	5.1	48.1	59.9	34.3
G	Brandon Loyd	5-11	2.8	0.3	0.1	38.1	00.0	40.0
F	Travis Reed	6-7	Transferred to Oklahoma.					

4. Oregon

NATIONAL RANK 31

Frontcourt: The low post scene wasn't always pretty last year, with big, slow guys who often missed layups. Accomplished scorer Julius Hicks—a junior-college transfer—should help improve that. At power forward, A.D. Smith has surpassed expectations; he's a heady, consistent player who posted strong numbers last season. Flo Hartenstein and Chris Christoffersen are imposing physically but don't provide much scoring punch. Bryan Bracey will back up at power forward. Small forward Alex Scales is possibly the team's most explosive performer, a flashy penetrator and quick defender who should be among the league's best wings this season.

Backcourt: As an inconsistent freshman last season, Frederick Jones couldn't keep a starting job over Terik Brown, but he still has all-league potential that could break out any time. He'll have to contend with Utah transfer David Jackson, who brings a tough, defensive-minded edge. Darius Wright is the consummate pass-first point guard, but he's also a good enough shooter. Junior-college transfer Anthony Norwood should be a capable backup combo guard, another example of the team's improved depth.

Key to success: Smith was a pleasant surprise last season, but Oregon is still waiting for Scales and Jones to develop into consistent go-to players. The Ducks also must find a way to regain their lost edge at McArthur Court, where finances forced many of the students off the floor two years ago.

Outlook: The Ducks reached the NIT semifinals last season. They should reach the NCAA Tournament this season, thanks to more experience and depth, but they'll have to start expecting to win. They shouldn't be intimidated by any team in the Pac-10.

Ducks DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Ernie Kent (32-27, 2 years; 122-107 overall. 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 19-13. Pac-10: 8-10/T5th. Lost to Xavier in NIT third-place game.
Last league title: 1945 (Pac-10 North).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Eugene, Ore.
Home court: McArthur Court (9,087).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
42	F	Bryan Bracey	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Malcolm X (Ill.) JC.					
25	C	Chris Christoffersen	7-2	So.	1.9	1.0	0.0	42.5	38.1	00.0
54	F	Flo Hartenstein	6-9	Jr.	3.8	3.5	0.3	46.4	55.1	00.0
11	F/C	Julius Hicks	6-8	Jr.	Transferred from West Valley (Calif.) JC.					
21	G	David Jackson	6-3	Jr.	Transferred from Utah.					
20	G	Frederick Jones	6-4	So.	9.1	3.4	1.9	51.2	67.6	41.0
34	G	Anthony Norwood	6-3	So.	Transferred from Collin County (Texas) JC.					
33	G	Alex Scales*	6-4	Sr.	14.3	5.9	3.2	40.4	73.8	30.9
00	F	A.D. Smith*	6-8	Sr.	13.0	7.9	1.5	51.2	76.9	40.5
4	G	Darius Wright*	6-0	Sr.	8.3	2.7	2.4	41.9	76.3	39.8

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Terik Brown*	6-1	12.3	3.1	1.9	39.9	76.5	35.0
C	Mike Carson*	7-0	7.0	5.2	0.4	48.8	64.7	00.0
F	Skouson Harker	6-8	2.2	2.3	0.1	36.5	48.1	00.0
G	Mike McShane	6-4	3.1	1.0	2.0	40.0	80.0	36.4
F	Donte Quinine	6-6	1.3	1.6	0.4	43.8	46.7	00.0
G	Yasir Rosemond	6-1	3.6	1.6	1.8	37.3	52.6	37.3

Schedule

N23 at Ill.-Chicago
N30 Portland
D3 at Portland State
D11 Cal State Northridge
D18 Minnesota*
D22 Northern Arizona
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J4 St. Martin's
J8 at Oregon State
J13 California
J15 Stanford
J20 at Washington
J22 at Washington State
J27 USC
J29 UCLA
F3 at Arizona
F5 at Arizona State
F10 at Stanford
F12 at California
F17 Washington State
F19 Washington
F24 at UCLA
F26 at USC
M2 Arizona State
M4 Arizona
M11 Oregon State
*Honolulu

5. Oregon State

NATIONAL RANK 33

Frontcourt: Jason Heide won't fool anybody this season. He was one of the league's bigger surprises last season, an aggressive offensive force around the basket who probably will attract some double-teams this season. Fortunately for the Beavers, there is plenty of support: Clifton Jones also improved steadily as last season's surprising success continued, and skilled in-state gem Brian Jackson should be the league's top freshman. George von Backstrom will add a defensive presence again, and big-bodied James Jones provides more versatility, probably playing both forward spots.

Backcourt: It says something that walk-on Josiah Lake was among the unit's most athletic players last season, but that doesn't mean this unit can't play. What's lacking in athleticism often gets compensated for with intelligence, shooting and teamwork. Point guard Deaundra Tanner, in fact, will be expected to look for teammates' shots more than his own. Josh Steinthal hit 60 percent from 3-point range over the final five games. Ramunas Petraitis is an all-around talent who can pass and handle the ball. Jimmie Haywood adds quickness on the perimeter.

Key to success: OSU beat seven Pac-10 teams at home last season—including Stanford, UCLA and Arizona—with a smart, cohesive and controlled game. With higher expectations and more attention, the Beavers must remember what got them there and not get caught in track meets with more athletic league powers.

Outlook: The Beavers never figured out how to win on the road last season, without the energy emanating from cozy Gill Coliseum, but they should have enough talent and experience this year. If so, an upper-division finish and postseason bid are likely.

Beavers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Eddie Payne (39-72, 4 years; 198-181 overall, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-14. Pac-10: 7-11/T7th.
Last league title: 1990 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Corvallis, Ore.
Home court: Gill Coliseum (10,400).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Mike Cokley	5-10	Fr.	Distributes well from point; good court sense.					
1	G	Jimmie Haywood	6-2	Fr.	Very quick; has played point and off-guard.					
40	C	Jason Heide*	6-10	Jr.	10.9	5.6	0.3	54.0	55.1	00.0
3	F	Brian Jackson	6-9	Fr.	He can hit from the outside or pound inside.					
2	F	Clifton Jones*	6-8	Sr.	5.0	6.4	0.6	57.1	32.9	00.0
23	F	James Jones	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from Compton JC.					
15	G	Josiah Lake	6-1	Sr.	2.5	1.3	0.7	55.0	57.1	66.7
32	G	Adam Masten	6-4	So.	3.4	2.4	1.9	42.4	60.6	38.1
31	G	Ramunas Petraitis*	6-3	Sr.	6.4	3.8	1.7	38.7	59.2	33.3
25	G	Josh Steinthal*	6-4	Jr.	11.9	2.6	1.3	38.9	75.5	37.3
4	G	Deaundra Tanner*	6-1	Jr.	15.8	5.1	4.7	35.1	78.6	31.9
54	C	George von Backstrom	7-0	Sr.	3.2	2.3	0.5	53.6	84.4	00.0
34	F	Iyan Walker	6-7	Sr.	4.3	3.0	0.7	48.9	60.5	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Sasa Petrovic	6-10	1.8	1.1	0.6	27.8	83.3	33.3

Schedule

N26-28 SoCon Holiday Classic
D1 Idaho
D4 at Colorado State
D11 Denver
D15 Eastern Washington
D20 Wyoming
D28 at Utah
J4 Texas A&M Corpus Christi
J8 Oregon
J13 Stanford
J15 California
J20 at Washington State
J23 at Washington
J27 UCLA
J29 USC
F3 at Arizona State
F5 Arizona
F10 at California
F12 at Stanford
F17 Washington
F19 Washington State
F24 at USC
F26 at UCLA
M2 Arizona
M4 Arizona State
M11 at Oregon

6. USC

NATIONAL RANK 48

Frontcourt: Henry Bibby had to restrain himself from playing Brian Scalabrine too much last year. Scalabrine had the skills to play on the perimeter and the temperament to kick teammates in the rear when necessary. He nearly wore out by midseason and averaged 31 minutes for the season, but he was back in top form late. Power forward Sam Clancy was strong against good teams last year but soft against others; more consistency is expected. Shannon Swillis is expected to return to power forward from small forward, but he may fill in at both spots. David Bluthenthal showed enough promise—and size—that he might find a home at small forward. Versatile Jarvis Turner is the grizzled veteran of the unit. Konstantinos Charissis and Luke Minor are the tallest players on the roster, but both are pretty much projects.

Backcourt: Jeff Trepagnier is all over the court and was the only Pac-10 player to finish in the top 10 in steals (1.8), blocks (1.1) and field-goal percentage (49 percent). Brandon Granville should be one of the league's top point guards, having prompted the transfer of once-promising Kevin Augustine. Freshman Nate Hair injured his knee late last season but should be able to compete immediately in the fall.

Key to success: Scalabrine is good enough for the team to compete without a true center, but finding a pure shooter might be difficult. The team has athletes and should create scoring from the defense, but it will miss shooters Adam Spanich and Elias Ayuso.

Outlook: The Trojans have enough talent to advance beyond last year's borderline NIT status, and they could even play a contending role in the Pac-10 race.

Trojans DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Henry Bibby (42-51, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-13. Pac-10: 7-11/T7th. Lost to Wyoming in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Los Angeles.
Home court: L.A. Sports Arena (15,509).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
34	F	David Bluthenthal	6-7	So.	2.1	1.8	0.1	50.0	66.7	00.0
15	C	Konstantinos Charissis	6-11	Fr.	Played on club teams in Greece past four years.					
50	F	Sam Clancy	6-7	So.	5.5	5.3	0.4	48.0	47.6	00.0
5	G	Brandon Granville	5-9	So.	7.7	2.3	5.0	36.5	76.4	34.7
1	G	Nate Hair	6-3	Fr.	Outstanding athlete; good shooter from outside.					
20	G	Rashad Jones	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from San Jose Community College.					
30	C	Luke Minor	7-3	Fr.	Minor is the tallest player in school history.					
24	C	Brian Scalabrine	6-9	Jr.	14.6	6.4	2.4	53.1	79.2	16.7
22	F	Shannon Swillis	6-6	Jr.	1.1	1.3	0.2	36.8	33.3	00.0
3	G	Malachi Thurston	6-4	Fr.	He's a slasher and is a good 3-point shooter.					
12	G	Jeff Trepagnier	6-4	Jr.	11.8	5.4	1.4	49.2	71.3	26.9
21	F	Jarvis Turner	6-8	Sr.	5.6	3.5	0.7	40.7	50.9	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Elias Ayuso	6-2	12.0	2.4	1.2	38.2	80.6	37.4
F	Greg Lakey	6-8	Transferred to Loyola Marymount.					
G	Adam Spanich	6-7	8.4	2.4	1.3	39.3	75.6	38.3
G	Quincy Wilder	6-3	5.0	2.6	2.1	43.1	51.2	31.8

Schedule

N19 Cal State Northridge
N22-24 Maui Classic
N27 Duke*
D4 at St. Bonaventure
D8 Hawaii
D11 at Loyola Marymount
D29 Northwestern
J2 at San Diego State
J6 at Washington State
J8 at Washington
J12 UCLA
J20 Arizona
J22 Arizona State
J27 at Oregon
J29 at Oregon State
F3 California
F5 Stanford
F9 at UCLA
F17 at Arizona
F19 at Arizona State
F24 Oregon State
F26 Oregon
M2 at Stanford
M4 at California
M9 Washington
M11 Washington State
*Anaheim, Calif.

7. California

NATIONAL RANK 141

Frontcourt: The Bears may look intimidating, with a front line that could go 6-10, 6-11 and 6-7, but they may not always feel that way. They're too young to dominate right away—Sean Lampley is the lone proven veteran. Solomon Hughes is a promising big man who can run well enough to play power forward, if Nick Vander Laan proves ready to handle center. With two big guys, Lampley could become a terror at the No. 3 spot, a leaper who can score and rebound from anywhere. Shahar Gordon is another big body.

Backcourt: Point guard Donte Smith went one of the rougher paths to NCAA eligibility, petitioning that his non-qualifying test scores were a result of a test anxiety problem. He was, after all, a high school honors student in Washington state. The good news is that he now has four full years. Cal also pulled in Shantay Legans, whose breakneck speed has coach Ben Braun contemplating a three-guard set with Smith at the 2-spot. But the top recruit is talented Brian Wethers, who will join defensive-minded Dennis Gates on the wing.

Key to success: The Bears are more talented, but younger, than last season. They'll have to learn quickly from mistakes, and Lampley must assume a leadership role. It will help that they will be playing at the renovated Harmon Gym, now known as Haas Pavilion, instead of the cavernous Oakland Arena.

Outlook: When Cal won last season's NIT championship, it was probably more a sign of a veteran team that finally began playing to its capabilities than an indication the Bears were an up-and-coming team. But Cal will truly be a team on the rise in the near future—it just might have to sink a bit more first.

Golden Bears DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Ben Braun (57-35, 3 years; 390-270 overall, 22 years; 5-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-11. Pac-10: 8-10/T5th. Beat Clemson in NIT title game.
Last league title: 1960.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Home court: Haas Pavilion (12,100).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	G	Dennis Gates	6-3	So.	2.5	0.9	0.5	27.7	52.9	26.4
40	C	Shahar Gordon	6-10	So.	1.2	1.2	0.6	26.3	56.5	00.0
45	F/C	Solomon Hughes	6-11	So.	3.3	2.4	0.1	52.4	23.1	00.0
10	G	Raymond King	5-10	Sr.	2.6	1.1	1.6	43.3	54.5	26.7
21	F	Sean Lampley*	6-7	Jr.	12.4	8.8	1.4	49.2	63.4	33.3
12	G	Shantay Legans	5-10	Fr.	Smart floor general who finds open teammates.					
34	F	Joe Shipp	6-5	Fr.	Strong kid who can score inside and outside.					
3	G	Donte Smith	6-2	Fr.	Redshirted because of academics in 1998-99.					
32	C	Nick Vander Laan	6-10	Fr.	Averaged 19 ppg and 14 rpg in senior prep year.					
25	G/F	Brian Wethers	6-5	Fr.	A wing player with excellent 3-point range.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G/F	Carl Boyd	Declared for NBA draft.						
G	Geno Carlisle*	6-3	15.9	2.5	3.9	37.8	77.3	30.6
C	Francisco Elson*	7-0	5.7	5.1	0.5	51.3	41.2	00.0
F	Mike Gill*	6-6	10.3	4.2	0.8	43.8	73.2	33.3
G	Thomas Kilgore*	6-2	14.2	3.6	2.3	45.1	81.4	38.7

Schedule

N18-21 Top of the World Classic
N27 Pacific
N29 Hofstra
D4 at Colorado
D8 San Jose State
D18 UC Irvine
D21 Oklahoma State*
D28-29 Golden Bear Classic
J2 Davidson
J6 Arizona
J8 Arizona State
J13 at Oregon
J15 at Oregon St.
J22 Stanford
J27 Washington St.
J29 Washington
F3 at USC
F5 at UCLA
F10 Oregon St.
F12 Oregon
F19 at Stanford
F24 at Washington
F26 at Washington St.
M2 UCLA
M4 USC
M9 at Arizona St.
M11 at Arizona
*Oakland, Calif.

8. Washington

NATIONAL RANK 147

Frontcourt: The Huskies will sorely miss Todd MacCulloch. Junior-college transfer David Dixon is the heir apparent, but it's unclear how much of a presence he will provide. Marlon Shelton, the only other true center, is a redshirt candidate. Will Perkins should provide some athleticism inside and the ability to guard the Pac-10's quicker big men. Forwards Thalo Green, Chris Walcott and Grant Leep have been capable role players, providing better-than-average shooting, but the team needs more to offset MacCulloch's scoring. Ben Coffee's inside-outside game should earn him a spot in the rotation.

Backcourt: The Huskies lost a dependable scorer in the backcourt, too—Donald Watts—but have more ability to compensate. Deon Luton owns every school 3-point record and has the quickness to provide a more well-rounded game. Senque Carey has impressive size and speed at the point, though he won't have a true backup with Dan Dickau gone. Off-guard Michael Johnson will help at the point and provide scoring punch. Defensively tough Greg Clark will be asked to look for his shot more.

Key to success: The need for scoring is fairly obvious, but rebounding might be even more critical. Carey is the team's leading returning boarder, which is not a good sign. The Huskies also will have to cope without cozy Hec Edmundson Pavilion, which is being renovated; they'll play at the SuperSonics' KeyArena.

Outlook: The Huskies have developed a pattern of playing well when not highly rated (1998) and playing poorly when highly rated (1999). They won't be highly rated this fall, but there probably are too many questions to secure a third consecutive NCAA bid.

Huskies DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bob Bender (85-84, 6 years; 145-141 overall, 10 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-12. Pac-10: 10-8/4th. Lost to Miami (Ohio) in NCAA Midwest first round.
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Seattle.
Home court: Key Arena (17,072).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	G	Bryan Brown	6-3	Jr.	1.6	0.5	0.4	36.8	50.0	35.3
3	G	Senque Carey*	6-3	So.	8.7	3.1	3.2	41.8	75.5	26.2
21	F	Greg Clark	6-6	Jr.	3.2	2.7	1.4	34.6	44.3	31.0
	F	Ben Coffee	6-6	Fr.	This cup of joe is a terror on the offensive glass.					
	C	David Dixon	6-10	So.	Transferred from Tyler JC.					
22	G	Travis Duty	6-4	So.	0.7	0.7	0.0	100.0	00.0	00.0
42	F	Thalo Green	6-6	Jr.	3.7	2.2	1.3	41.7	55.6	00.0
23	G	Michael Johnson	6-4	Jr.	4.6	1.7	0.9	45.9	66.7	32.4
31	F	Grant Leep	6-5	So.	1.3	0.7	0.1	30.3	66.7	21.4
5	G	Deon Luton*	6-5	Sr.	14.3	2.1	2.0	43.9	78.8	35.2
11	G	Andrew Moritz	6-2	Sr.	0.9	0.3	0.5	57.1	00.0	66.7
	F	Will Perkins	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Iowa Western JC.					
44	C	Marlon Shelton	6-9	So.	0.4	0.5	0.0	20.0	50.0	00.0
33	F	Chris Walcott*	6-8	Sr.	5.5	2.9	0.8	51.8	76.8	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Dan Dickau	6-1	4.6	2.9	2.6	39.3	71.4	35.5
C	Todd MacCulloch*	7-0	18.7	11.9	0.8	66.2	59.5	00.0
G	Donald Watts*	6-4	13.1	3.7	3.7	43.6	70.9	50.0

Schedule

N22 at St. Mary's
N24-27 Great Alaska Shootout
D2 at UNC-Wilmington
D4 at Old Dominion
D17 Wichita State
D21 Oklahoma State
D23 Boise State
D29 at New Mexico State
J3 at New Mexico
J6 UCLA
J8 USC
J13 at Arizona State
J15 at Arizona
J20 Oregon
J23 Oregon State
J27 at Stanford
J29 at California
F5 at Washington State
F10 Arizona
F13 Arizona State
F17 at Oregon State
F19 at Oregon
F24 California
F26 Stanford
M4 Washington State
M9 at USC
M11 at UCLA

9. Arizona State

NATIONAL RANK 157

Frontcourt: The Sun Devils are used to not having much size; now they also will have to live without much experience inside. But there is some hope in freshman Donnell Knight and sophomore transfer Awvee Storey, a capable slasher. Sophomore Chad Prewitt, who started eight games last season, is the veteran of the frontcourt, while Knight may establish himself quickly as the go-to guy. Prewitt, who has a physical edge to his game, probably will start in the low post. Another freshman, Tommy Smith, is an athletic scorer. But Knight is the most versatile talent, with the ability to play on the wing or the inside. The departures of starting forwards Bobby Lazor and Mike Batiste make this unit very thin.

Backcourt: Eddie House is a talented scorer and top-notch defender on whom the Sun Devils again will rely heavily. But can he get serious and become a true leader? That's not easy when you are playing for a new coach every year. While House may play more point guard, Alton Mason, the team's other returning starter, will be the primary man at the point.

Key to success: Without Lazor and Batiste, two consistent forces during the awkward transition from Bill Frieder to Don Newman to Rob Evans, the Sun Devils need leadership. If not House, maybe Storey, who ripped his teammates during a lackluster practice last season. Mostly, the Sun Devils' young talent must remain confident during a potentially difficult season.

Outlook: The Sun Devils are probably more talented than they have been in years—but they won't be ready to do much this season. At least Evans has virtually his own team in just his second season—House is the only holdover from the Frieder era.

Sun Devils DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Rob Evans (14-16, 1 year; 100-97 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-16. Pac-10: 6-12/9th.
Last league title: 1975 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tempe, Ariz.
Home court: University Activity Center (14,198).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	F	Justin Allen	6-7	Fr.	Good shooter; tallied 26.7 ppg, 15 rpg last year.					
	G	Kyle Dodd	6-0	Fr.	Quick point with stellar penetrating skills.					
5	G	Eddie House*	6-1	Sr.	18.9	4.9	3.1	43.2	79.1	38.9
23	F	Jeremy Ivener	6-7	Jr.	0.0	0.5	0.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
10	G	D'Angelo Jones	5-10	Jr.	0.0	0.3	0.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
	F	Donnell Knight	6-8	Fr.	Parade All-American and an excellent passer.					
13	G	Alton Mason*	6-2	Jr.	8.5	2.7	4.1	41.0	59.5	25.4
20	G	Brad Nahra	6-4	So.	0.6	0.8	0.2	25.0	50.0	33.3
25	F/C	Okeme Oziwo	6-8	Sr.	1.9	1.6	0.0	57.9	58.8	00.0
52	F/C	Chad Prewitt	6-9	So.	4.1	2.9	0.9	54.9	66.7	50.0
	F	Shawn Redhage	6-8	Fr.	*USA Today*'s Nebraska Player of the Year.					
	F/G	Tanner Shell	6-6	Fr.	Helped high school squad win two state titles.					
	F	Tommy Smith	6-9	Fr.	Local product who possesses great athleticism.					
42	F/G	Awvee Storey	6-6	So.	Transferred from Illinois.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Mike Batiste*	6-8	16.7	6.9	2.4	50.7	60.0	35.8
G	Kenny Crandall*	6-4	On two-year church mission.					
G	Ron DuBois	5-10	1.1	0.5	1.0	35.7	36.4	30.4
F	Bobby Lazor*	6-9	18.0	8.7	3.0	49.1	75.1	28.4
G/F	Jason Patton	6-4	Transferred.					
F	Lohnnie Tape'	6-7	Transferred.					

Schedule

N20 Portland St.
N25-27 Puerto Rico Shootout
D1 Colorado St.
D4 Morgan St.
D7 at BYU
D18 San Diego St.
D21 Santa Clara
D28-29 Fiesta Bowl Holiday Classic
J6 at Stanford
J8 at California
J13 Washington
J15 Washington St.
J20 at UCLA
J22 at USC
J26 Arizona
J29 at N.C. St.
F3 Oregon State
F5 Oregon
F10 at Wash. St.
F13 at Washington
F17 UCLA
F19 USC
F26 at Arizona
M2 at Oregon
M4 at Oregon St.
M9 California
M11 Stanford

10. Washington State

NATIONAL RANK 207

Frontcourt: There's nothing like a year at Washington State to shake off some rust. Eddie Miller and Mike Bush arrived in Pullman last year not having played for a full season and immediately were thrown into the fire—especially Miller, who usually served as an undersized one-man post. Both will be equally busy this season, Miller again in the low post and Bush as a penetrator from the wing. Chris Crosby is a talented outside shooter who makes a difficult target to guard at 6-7, but he lacks the quickness to defend many players at his small forward spot.

Backcourt: Jan-Michael Thomas is a classic Cougar success story, an unheralded junior-college transfer from Los Angeles who found a home in the Pac-10 and began scaring the wits out of everybody who didn't recruit him. He probably is the conference's top shooter, managing to connect against man and zone defenses. Junior-college transfer Tyrone Evans brings another jolt of athleticism to the wing and will be needed immediately. Blake Pengelly will reassume his starting point guard role after jumping between the guard spots. It will be a final chance for him to reach the potential he showed as a freshman three years ago.

Key to success: Again, the Cougars won't have much talent or size. But they do have some terrific shooters who can make some things happen.

Outlook: Under Kevin Eastman, the Cougars were energetic and enthusiastic but lacked a knockout punch. Paul Graham is optimistic a tougher mentality can push them over the edge. But the reality is they aren't talented enough to win league games if opponents take them seriously. Fortunately for Graham, some don't.

Cougars DATA

Coach: Paul Graham (first year).
1998-99 record: 10-19. Pac-10: 4-14/10th.
Last league title: 1941.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Pullman, Wash.
Home court: Friel Court (12,058).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
23	G	David Adams	6-2	Fr.	A good shooter who can play both guard spots.					
5	G	Mike Bush*	6-5	So.	6.6	3.1	1.6	40.9	66.2	30.3
11	G	Cedric Clark	5-11	Jr.	0.0	0.5	0.3	00.0	00.0	00.0
34	F	Chris Crosby*	6-7	Sr.	13.1	3.7	1.1	41.2	84.3	38.7
30	F	Tyrone Evans	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Garden City JC.					
10	G	Nick Graham	6-0	Fr.	Savvy point who moves well without the ball.					
44	F	Eddie Miller*	6-6	Jr.	10.9	5.4	0.7	53.6	74.6	25.0
3	G	Blake Pengelly*	5-10	Sr.	3.7	1.7	3.0	36.1	47.8	33.8
33	G	Marquis Poole	6-2	Fr.	Strong to the hoop with lots of quickness.					
25	F	Milton Riley	6-8	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
40	C	Brian Stewart	6-10	Jr.	3.5	1.8	0.1	53.1	64.4	00.0
4	G	Jan-Michael Thomas*	5-11	Sr.	14.1	2.1	1.3	39.9	83.7	40.5
32	F	Bryan Whitehead	6-9	Fr.	His good all-around ability should help up front.					

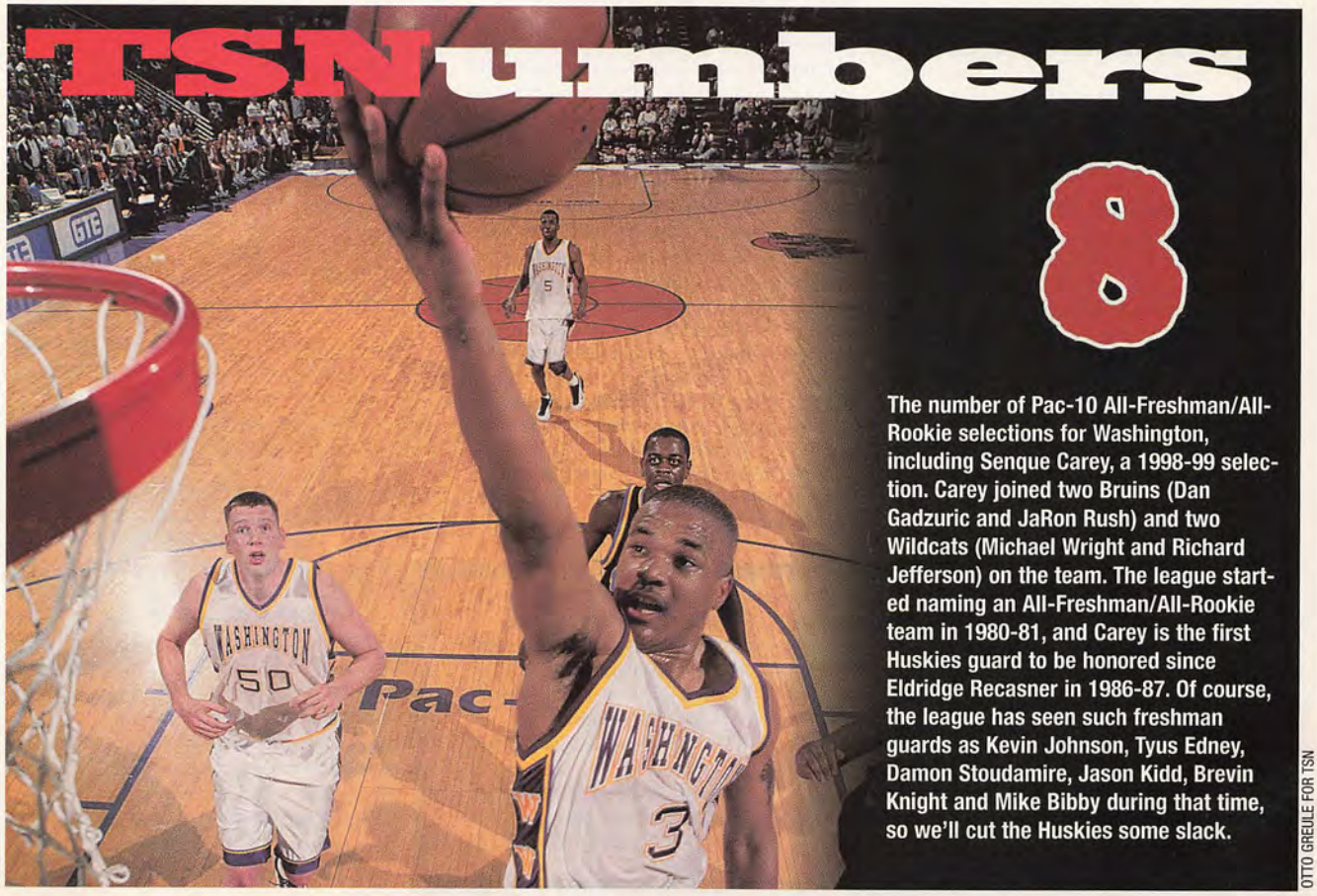
LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Will Hutchens	6-4	1.7	1.6	0.8	36.1	60.0	31.2
G	Kab Kazadi	6-0	3.6	2.1	1.3	37.5	70.7	40.0
F	Kojo Mensah-Bonsu	6-5	13.1	6.0	1.1	41.2	64.4	00.0
C	Leif Nelson	6-11	2.6	1.9	0.0	44.4	66.7	00.0

Schedule

N19 at Nevada	J8 UCLA	J29 at Stanford	F24 Stanford
D7 Portland	J13 Arizona	F5 Washington	F26 California
D11 Utah	J15 Arizona State	F10 Arizona State	M4 at Washington
D30 at Colorado State	J20 Oregon State	F12 Arizona	M9 at UCLA
J6 USC	J22 Oregon	F17 at Oregon	M11 at USC
	J27 at California	F19 at Oregon State	

TSNumbers



8

The number of Pac-10 All-Freshman/All-Rookie selections for Washington, including Senque Carey, a 1998-99 selection. Carey joined two Bruins (Dan Gadzuric and JaRon Rush) and two Wildcats (Michael Wright and Richard Jefferson) on the team. The league started naming an All-Freshman/All-Rookie team in 1980-81, and Carey is the first Huskies guard to be honored since Eldridge Recasner in 1986-87. Of course, the league has seen such freshman guards as Kevin Johnson, Tyus Edney, Damon Stoudamire, Jason Kidd, Brevin Knight and Mike Bibby during that time, so we'll cut the Huskies some slack.

OTTO GREULE FOR TSN

Inside dish

Southeastern

RANK 2

ASCENDING: Florida. Billy Donovan has taken recruiting to a level unimagined at Florida. Four McDonald's All-Americans will suit up this winter. The additions of Udonis Haslem and Donnell Harvey have toughened up the inside game to complement Donovan's perimeter savvy. Because of all the youth, the Gators' rise doesn't appear likely to peak for at least another year.

DESCENDING: Kentucky. Don't panic, Big Blue fans, because we're not talking NIT, and virtually any other program would love to trade places. Kentucky will still be Kentucky, but after a three-year Final Four run that ended in last season's regional finals loss to Michigan State, losing the top four scorers is almost certain to signal a drop-off. Fresh talent in the form of Marvin Stone and Keith Bogans is on the way, but this season, the Wildcats will have to fight for everything they get.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: Georgia's Jumaine Jones. There are so many sneakers to fill at Georgia, it's easy to underestimate how much losing Jones to the NBA draft after his sophomore year will impact the program. He led the SEC in scoring and was third in rebounding. JC transfers Anthony Evans and Shon Coleman will get a shot at being instant contributors.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Alabama's Jeremy Hays. Last season in conference play, the 6-10 junior averaged 12.9 points and an SEC-high 10.3 rebounds, plus he shot 80 percent from the stripe. But he didn't make even third team All-SEC in the coaches' vote.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: Tennessee's C.J. Black. He was second-team All-SEC as a sophomore, a rising star. Surprisingly, he regressed last winter in virtually every statistical category. A knee injury didn't help, but being overweight was problematic at both ends of the court. The Vols need a big senior finish from a well-conditioned Black.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: South Carolina's Eddie Fogler. This time a year ago, it was unthinkable to see Fogler's name in this category. However, the Gamecocks' nosedive in 1998-99 was so precipitous—and recruiting has not been dazzling—that South Carolina athletic director Mike McGee declined to give Fogler the expected roll-over to keep him working on a five-year contract.

BEST BETS: Auburn, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee will be making travel plans on Selection Sunday. ... In Lexington, the Smiths—coach Tubby and starting point guard Saul—are in for a long winter of scrutiny. In Knoxville, Jerry Green and point guard Tony Harris are in for the same, considering Harris' offseason criticism.

ODDS AND ENDS: The conference underwent two coaching changes, both of which make the Eastern Division a tougher place to get a victory. Jim Harrick brings experience and an NCAA championship ring to Georgia, where young Ron Jirsa was dumped after two years. At Vanderbilt, respected Kevin Stallings comes from Illinois State to replace deposed Jan van Breda Kolff. Coincidentally, Stallings turned down Tennessee's offer two years ago and now must try to reverse his program's second-fiddle role in the Volunteer State. ... Alabama already has won what figured to be one of the nation's best recruiting battles. Gerald Wallace, a 6-7 forward from Childersburg, Ala., picked the Tide over Auburn. ... Auburn lost out on Wallace but already has a leg up on next year's recruiting. Adam Harrington, one of the ACC's better freshmen, transferred from NC State and is sitting out. ... Vandy's quirky Memorial Gym got a facelift that includes luxury boxes and moves the press from the crow's nest to courtside. However, the benches remain at opposite ends of the court, continuing to frustrate visiting coaches not used to working the baseline.

By Bob Holt *Arkansas Gazette*
and Mike Strange *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

Predictions

East Division	West Division
1. Florida	1. Auburn
2. Kentucky	2. Arkansas
3. Tennessee	3. Mississippi State
4. Vanderbilt	4. Alabama
5. Georgia	5. LSU
6. South Carolina	6. Mississippi

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tony Harris, Tennessee	6-0	165	Jr.
G	Doc Robinson, Auburn	6-2	185	Sr.
F	Dan Langhi, Vanderbilt	6-11	215	Sr.
F	Mike Miller, Florida	6-8	218	So.
F	Chris Porter, Auburn	6-7	218	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Keith Bogans, Kentucky	6-5	205	Fr.
G	Brett Nelson, Florida	6-3	170	Fr.
F	Jamaal Magloire, Kentucky	6-10	260	Sr.
F	Tang Hamilton, Mississippi State	6-7	215	Jr.
F	Isiah Victor, Tennessee	6-9	215	Jr.

Player of the Year

Chris Porter, F, Auburn

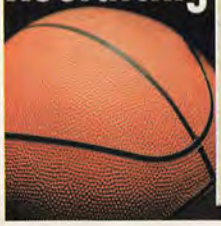
Newcomer of the Year

Keith Bogans, G, Kentucky

Honor Roll

Best shooter: D.A. Layne, Georgia
Best rebounder: Chris Porter, Auburn
Best playmaker: Doc Robinson, Auburn
Best defender: Mamadou N'diaye, Auburn
Best leaper: Chris Porter, Auburn
Most versatile: Sergerio Gipson, Arkansas
Most flamboyant: Tony Harris, Tennessee
Best NBA prospect: Chris Porter, Auburn

Ranking the Recruiting



1. Florida: Donnell Harvey and Brett Nelson should help immediately.
2. Alabama: Rebuilding has begun—strong class led by Schea Cotton.
3. Kentucky: Big guy Marvin Stone plus Keith Bogans to help on perimeter.
4. Tennessee: Terrence Woods and Marcus Haislip head strong class.
5. Arkansas: Alonzo Lane, Carl Baker and Charles Tatum are ready—now.
6. Georgia: Ezra Williams and junior-college guys will help Jim Harrick.
7. Mississippi State: Shooting guard Derrick Zimmerman may start.
8. South Carolina: Trevor Harvey and Marijonas Petravicius arrive.
9. Mississippi: Jason Holmes is likely starting shooting guard.
10. LSU: Shooting guard Torris Bright may start.
11. Auburn: Marquis Daniels, Jamison Brewer could help eventually.
12. Vanderbilt: Guard Rick Jones was only signee.

More on the SEC at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. Florida

NATIONAL RANK 11

Schedule

N19 Florida State
N22-24 Maui Classic
N29 New Hampshire
D4 Florida A&M
D11 Bethune-Cookman
D19 High Point
D21 Rutgers*
D23 UNC-Wilmington
D28 VMI
D30 South Alabama
J5 at Vanderbilt
J8 at Mississippi
J12 LSU
J18 Tennessee
J22 at Alabama
J26 at DePaul
J29 Vanderbilt
F2 at South Carolina
F5 Georgia
F8 Kentucky
F12 at Tennessee
F15 Arkansas
F19 Mississippi State
F23 at Georgia State
F27 Auburn
M1 South Carolina
M4 at Kentucky
*East Rutherford, N.J.

Frontcourt: Florida no longer has to live and die by its perimeter game. The addition of prep stars Donnell Harvey and Matt Bonner gives coach Billy Donovan terrific depth inside for the first time since he has been at Florida. Junior Brent Wright is the old man and the returning starter at power forward, but he might play more in the post to make room for Harvey, a ferocious rebounder considered by some to be the national prep player of the year. He has gained a reputation as a relentless rebounder. Center Udonis Haslem, the surprise of a touted Gators freshman class last year, is foul-prone and has had to sit early on occasion, but he is a double-digit scorer. The 6-9 Bonner likes to play facing the basket and can shoot with range, almost a carbon copy of the man he replaces in the rotation, departed senior Greg Stolt. Bonner also has drawn comparisons to former Kentucky standout Scott Padgett. Look for Mike Miller to have some terrific games as a sophomore. Florida's leading scorer as a rookie at 12.2 points a game, Miller should be even more productive with more talent around him. He is one of those players who has the skills to make everyone on his team better. Veteran role player Major Parker can help the Gators on defense. He is a physical defender, rebounder and emotional leader.

Backcourt: So many guards, so many scorers. Are there enough shots to go around? Probably, but the Gators are far from being one-dimensional run-and-gun. Eight other conference teams averaged more shots a game last year than Florida. At point guard, steady Eddie Shannon is gone. However, two McDonald's All-Americans are on hand to share the job. Sophomore Teddy Dupay, a long-range bomber, has a leg up on experience, but don't be shocked to see him coming off the bench to spark the offense. Freshman Brett Nelson could be the starting point guard by January. Touts are calling Nelson the best prospect out of West Virginia since Jerry West. He has terrific court vision and can dish the ball, plain or a la mode. Starting 2-guard Kenyan Weaks is a spot-up shooter. He was lights-out two years ago but struggled much of last winter before heating up to a sizzling finish. Sophomore LaDarius Halton and freshman Justin Hamilton come off the bench with a shooter's mentality. Hamilton will fit right into Florida's up-tempo style with his tremendous jumping ability and explosive first step.

Key to success: Donovan did a nice job last year rotating players to keep everybody reasonably happy—and fresh. This year, yet another influx of talented newcomers makes his juggling act a little trickier, but that's a good problem to have. The addition of Harvey should give Florida a needed boost on the offensive glass.

Outlook: A consensus top-five recruiting class bodes very well, but Florida is still young and will be even better in 2001. Weaks is the only senior. Still, the Gators have arrived. The O'Connell Center will be a deathtrap for visitors this winter, and Florida should be right at home in the Sweet 16 for a second consecutive year.



JEFF REINKING FOR TSN

Star of the show: *With a stronger supporting cast, Miller is expected to be even more productive—which is saying something considering he led the Gators in scoring last year.*

Gators DATA

Coach: Billy Donovan (49-41, 3 years; 84-61 overall, 5 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-9. SEC East: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Gonzaga in NCAA West semifinals.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Gainesville, Fla.
Home court: O'Connell Center (12,000).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
15	F	Matt Bonner	6-9	Fr.	Three-time New Hampshire Player of the Year.					
5	G	Teddy Dupay	5-10	So.	11.0	1.6	2.8	40.2	81.0	37.6
23	G	LaDarius Halton	6-3	So.	5.1	1.2	0.9	38.1	70.0	33.3
12	G	Justin Hamilton	6-3	Fr.	Slasher with 38-inch vertical leap.					
4	F	Donnell Harvey	6-8	Fr.	'99 Naismith Prep Basketball Player of the Year.					
50	C	Udonis Haslem*	6-7	So.	10.5	5.0	0.8	60.3	59.2	00.0
13	F	Mike Miller*	6-8	So.	12.2	5.2	2.1	49.4	70.2	35.6
10	G	Brett Nelson	6-3	Fr.	Best recruit from West Virginia since Jerry West.					
25	F	Major Parker	6-4	Jr.	5.0	3.1	1.3	45.5	71.1	29.0
52	G	Kenyan Weaks*	6-4	Sr.	11.3	3.4	1.7	46.3	85.7	38.1
00	F	Brent Wright*	6-8	Jr.	8.2	5.9	1.4	47.2	66.7	46.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Ronnie King	5-11	1.9	0.7	0.0	50.0	68.8	00.0
C	Obiora Nnaji	6-11	Transferred to Rollins College.					
F	Patrick O'Connor	6-5	0.7	1.0	0.0	00.0	00.0	100.0
F	Greg Stolt	6-9	11.0	3.3	0.9	47.8	66.7	43.8
G	Eddie Shannon*	5-11	6.7	2.6	4.7	50.0	75.0	34.5
G	Mike Timinski	5-7	0.3	0.2	0.5	25.0	00.0	00.0

2. Kentucky

NATIONAL RANK 12

Schedule

N17 Pennsylvania*
N29 Dayton
D4 Indiana#
D7 UNC-Asheville
D11 at Maryland
D18 Louisville
D23 Michigan State
D27 Alaska-Anchorage
D30 Missouri+
J5 Georgia Tech
J8 Vanderbilt
J11 at Auburn
J15 at South Carolina
J19 Mississippi
J22 at Vanderbilt
J26 at Georgia
J29 at Miami (Fla.)
F1 Tennessee
F5 South Carolina
F8 at Florida
F13 at LSU
F16 Alabama
F19 Georgia
F23 at Tennessee
F26 Arkansas
F29 at Mississippi State
M4 Florida
*New York City
#Indianapolis
+New Orleans

Frontcourt: Never was a guy who averaged 7.0 points and 4.4 rebounds and played 19 minutes a game hailed as a bigger savior than Jamaal Magloire was. When you consider that the program doing the hailing is Kentucky, it's even more amazing. Magloire's 11th-hour decision to spurn the NBA draft and return for his senior year is a legitimate big deal because the Wildcats already had lost senior forwards Scott Padgett and Heshimu Evans, then were shocked by Michael Bradley's decision to leave Kentucky and transfer to Villanova. Magloire is a physical presence in the paint. He's no go-to clutch scorer, but he was the Southeastern Conference's No. 2 shot blocker last season. In Bradley's absence, the door is open for freshman Marvin Stone, a McDonald's All-American, to settle in at power forward. If he doesn't prove ready, sophomore Jules Camara, though still raw, is the team's most athletic big man. Junior-college transfer Nate Knight brings a reputation as a solid, unspectacular role player. At small forward, sophomore Tayshaun Prince could develop into an All-SEC player. Prince didn't have his "A" game as a freshman, adjusting to the extra pounds he had put on and being far from his California home. He gave a hint in the postseason that he would be more of a factor this winter. Desmond Allison, who made 17 starts as a freshman, might start or back up at small forward or shooting guard.

Backcourt: The ball is in Saul Smith's hands. After two years of backing up Wayne Turner, Smith inherits the privilege and the pressure of running the show at Kentucky. Smith will play hard, defend well and be unselfish. He is not a terrific perimeter shooter, but he will be an improvement over Turner in that department. Smith's toughest chore might well be standing up to the scrutiny of Kentucky's obsessive fans who demand he prove he didn't get the job simply because of nepotism. Freshman Keith Bogans, another McDonald's All-American, arrives with the shooting guard spot there for the taking. But Allison, with a year under his belt, might have other ideas. The transfer of shooter Ryan Hogan to Iowa hurts this team's depth. Based on their minimal appearances last season, the jury is still out on whether sophomores Todd Tackett and J.P. Blevins are capable of delivering in relief roles.

Key to success: Saul Smith can make his and his father's life a lot easier by rising to the occasion. If things go badly or if Smith gets hurt, there aren't a lot of other options at the point. The Wildcats need Prince to blossom as a scorer. Bogans and Stone were each considered among the top prospects nationally at their positions. They need to justify the hype.

Outlook: The Wildcats lost their top four scorers, and the depth is not up to Kentucky's usual standards. Florida, for a change, has the most talent in the SEC East. Still, this is a roster that most teams would be happy to have. The Wildcats will be a pain in the butt on defense and will fight every time out. But they also could be easier to defend, depending on how the younger players make the transition stepping up to score.



Time to shine: *Prince, a sophomore, didn't quite live up to expectations last season, but he knows he has something to prove and intends to do it.*

Wildcats DATA

Coach: Tubby Smith (63-13, 2 years; 187-75 overall, 8 years; 15-5 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '98).
1998-99 record: 28-9. SEC East: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest final.
Last league title: 1998.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Lexington, Ky.
Home court: Rupp Arena (23,000).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	G/F	Desmond Allison*	6-5	So.	4.7	2.0	1.3	50.0	65.6	38.9
3	G	J.P. Blevins	6-2	So.	0.8	0.5	0.2	33.3	00.0	33.3
10	G	Keith Bogans	6-5	Fr.	Expect this athletic scorer to play a lot.					
40	F	Jules Camara	6-11	So.	4.4	3.2	0.4	53.3	51.9	25.0
50	F	Marquis Estill	6-9	Fr.	Good hands and solid moves in the post.					
5	F	Nate Knight	6-8	Jr.	Brother Travis was UConn star in early '90s.					
42	C	Jamaal Magloire	6-10	Sr.	7.0	4.4	0.5	53.1	57.6	—
4	G	Steve Masiello	6-1	Sr.	0.7	0.4	0.7	20.0	40.0	22.2
21	G/F	Tayshaun Prince	6-9	So.	5.8	3.8	1.2	41.4	65.6	28.7
11	G	Saul Smith	6-2	Jr.	5.0	1.8	1.6	36.7	62.0	35.6
24	F	Marvin Stone	6-10	Fr.	Alabama's Mr. Basketball provides bulk inside.					
12	G	Todd Tackett	6-2	So.	0.9	0.9	0.1	16.7	50.0	18.2

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Myron Anthony	6-7	Transferred to Texas Christian.					
F/C	Michael Bradley*	6-10	Transferred to Villanova.					
F	Heshimu Evans*	6-6	11.8	5.1	3.0	46.3	73.4	29.0
G	Ryan Hogan	6-3	Transferred to Iowa.					
F	Scott Padgett*	6-9	12.6	5.9	2.6	46.6	68.1	38.1
G	Wayne Turner*	6-2	10.5	2.8	3.9	49.5	68.6	27.9

3. Tennessee

NATIONAL RANK 18

Schedule

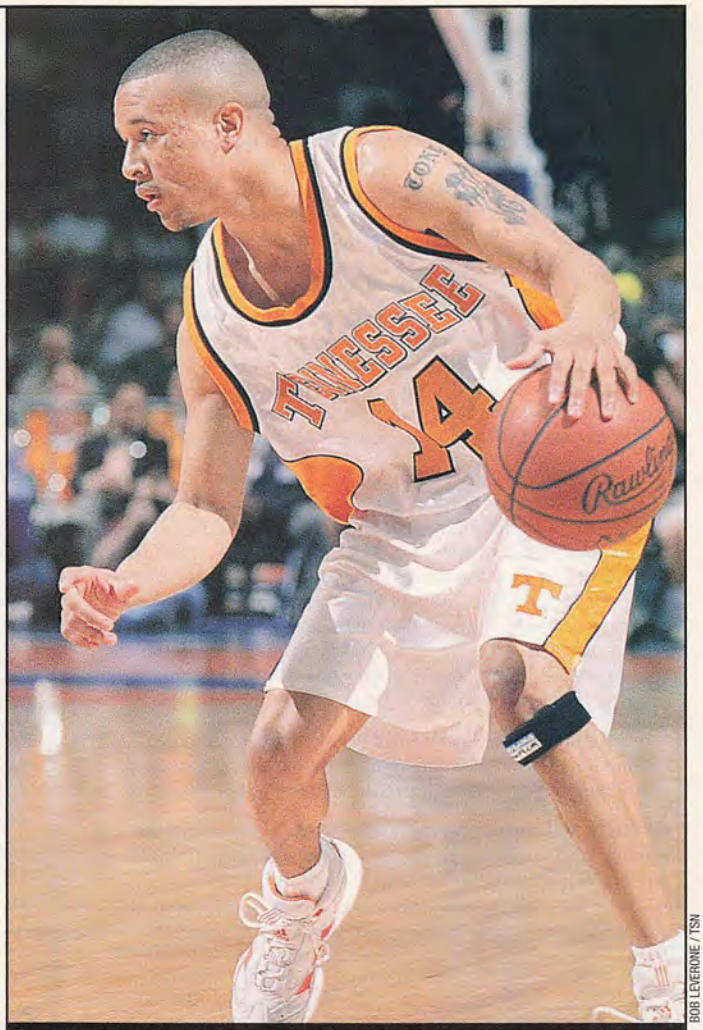
N22 Elon
N24 UNC-Asheville
N26 Long Island
N29 South Florida
D1 Miami (Ohio)
D4 at Pittsburgh
D8 West Virginia
D10 Middle Tennessee St.
D18 at Memphis
D21-23 Puerto Rico Cl.
J2 Radford
J5 at South Carolina
J8 at LSU
J12 Vanderbilt
J15 Mississippi
J18 at Florida
J25 Auburn
J29 South Carolina
F1 at Kentucky
F6 at Mississippi State
F9 Georgia
F12 Florida
F19 at Vanderbilt
F23 Kentucky
F26 at Alabama
M1 Arkansas
M4 at Georgia

Frontcourt: This should be among the best inside games in the conference if Isiah Victor, Vincent Yarbrough and C.J. Black reach their potential. Victor showed flashes of NBA promise as a sophomore and was one of the SEC's most improved players. He's agile and can run and create a shot. If he gets stronger with the basketball, he can be first-team All-SEC. Yarbrough wasn't the impact scorer Tennessee fans expected, but he was terrific on defense. Jerry Green's decision to start the 17-year-old freshman from the get-go will pay dividends this year, especially if Yarbrough develops his offensive game. He says he is looking forward to an expanded role. Black should have learned a painful lesson last year about not being in shape. His career legacy depends on keeping his weight down and returning to the form of his sophomore season. But he already is the school's all-time leader in blocked shots and is one of the SEC's most consistent inside scoring threats. Charles Hathaway's offensive limitations are obvious, but bulk and athleticism make him a valuable role player. Freshman Ron Slay should be able to carve out a niche in the rotation. He was named Virginia's high school player of the year by *USA Today*. A year at prep power Oak Hill Academy will make the transition to the SEC easier for Slay, a physical, aggressive athlete who will be a fan favorite in a frontcourt that has been too passive at times.

Backcourt: Tony Harris could make or break Tennessee's season. Nobody in the league is quicker, and few compete harder. He led the Volunteers in assists in all but six games last season. Despite some awful shooting performances, when the smoke cleared, Harris led the SEC in 3-point accuracy during league play (46.6 percent). The question is whether he and his coach can get and stay on the same page. Harris is a point guard with a scorer's mentality and sometimes struggles to find a happy medium. If Harris doesn't run the team to Green's satisfaction, Virginia Tech transfer Jenis Grindstaff or another newcomer, freshman Harris Walker, could take on the playmaker role. Depth is not a big problem here. Walker was named by some recruiting services last year as the top prep school point guard in the nation. Grindstaff, a hard-nosed gym rat, probably replaces departed Brandon Wharton, a four-year starter at shooting guard who led the Volunteers in scoring for the past three seasons. Veterans Vegas Davis and Del Baker will have to show something to stay ahead of freshmen Walker, Terrence Woods and Jon Higgins in the battle for minutes. Baker can play a variety of roles and has become a legitimate perimeter scoring threat.

Key to success: With improved backcourt depth, Green hopes to press and run more. That could create easy baskets for a team that struggled to score last year. It may be asking too much of freshmen, but the newcomers could give the Volunteers needed perimeter shooting.

Outlook: If Harris can be the kind of leader Green wants him to be, and if Black decides to go out strong, Tennessee can hang in the rankings and avenge last year's postseason collapse. The chemistry on this team, however, is volatile.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Tennessee's key: *The Volunteers are looking to Harris more than any other player. He likes to score, but the coaches want their quick guard to run the team effectively.*

Volunteers DATA

Coach: Jerry Green (41-18, 2 years; 263-195 overall, 16 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-9. SEC East: 12-4/1st. Lost to Southwest Missouri State in NCAA East second round.
Last league title: 1999 (SEC East).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Knoxville, Tenn. **Home court:** Thompson-Boling Arena (24,535).

**- 1998-99 starter*

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
32	G	Del Baker	6-4	Jr.	1.5	0.5	0.3	34.9	00.0	23.1
43	F	C.J. Black*	6-8	Sr.	9.4	5.5	0.8	44.3	80.2	29.6
34	G	Vegas Davis	6-3	Sr.	1.8	1.1	0.1	28.6	83.3	30.4
24	G	Jenis Grindstaff	6-2	So.	Transferred from Virginia Tech.					
12	F	Marcus Haislip	6-9	Fr.	Shooting and versatility are his biggest assets.					
14	G	Tony Harris*	6-0	Jr.	12.4	2.7	4.8	37.3	79.4	39.0
55	C	Charles Hathaway	6-10	Jr.	4.9	3.7	0.3	43.6	65.9	—
42	G	Jon Higgins	6-3	Fr.	Should be recovered from knee surgery.					
35	F	Ron Slay	6-8	Fr.	Helped Oak Hill (Va.) to nation's top HS ranking.					
44	F	Isiah Victor	6-9	Jr.	11.3	7.3	0.8	58.9	59.6	30.0
5	G	Harris Walker	6-1	Fr.	Considered by some as nation's top prep PG.					
31	G	Terrence Woods	6-2	Fr.	Most decorated HS player in state last year.					
22	F	Vincent Yarbrough*	6-7	So.	7.6	5.2	1.4	41.7	70.2	27.4

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Aaron Green	6-2	3.7	1.3	1.8	39.6	60.9	33.3
F	Torrey Harris*	6-10	1.2	2.4	0.2	35.3	43.3	—
F	Rashard Lee	6-6	7.0	3.4	0.7	41.1	67.7	30.9
G	Brandon Wharton*	6-3	13.0	2.6	3.1	39.8	75.8	34.8

4. Vanderbilt

NATIONAL RANK 47

Frontcourt: Dan Langhi was one of the SEC's most improved players last season. Still, you would expect a big man to shoot better than 41.8 percent from the field (one explanation is that nearly one-third of his attempts were from 3-point range). One of Langhi's best skills was getting to the line, where he shot 84 percent. Greg LaPointe is the unit's physical presence. He's an adequate but hardly athletic post player. Darius Coulibaly is a raw, intriguing project. His minutes could double to 12 to 13 a game. In his first two years, Anthony Williams has lived up to his reputation as a rebounder, but he is limited offensively. The summer dismissal of potential starter Michael LeBlanc opens minutes at small forward.

Backcourt: Atiba Prater is the athletic playmaker Vanderbilt has often lacked, but his spotty shooting is a liability. He also shoots 56.8 percent from the line—not what you want from a guy who handles the ball a lot when you're trying to protect a late lead. James Strong's 77 steals were a league high, another indication Vandy has improved its athleticism on the perimeter. However, he's no marksman either, hitting 30.8 percent of his 3-point tries. No regular made 40 percent from 3-point range except for the departed Vince Ford. Sam Howard's touch should improve as a sophomore. Deandre Moore is Prater's relief man.

Key to success: Kevin Stallings doesn't know a lot about his personnel, but he knows defensive improvement is his top priority. Better shooting is a must to avoid another winless SEC road slate.

Outlook: Stallings inherits a veteran team. It has several decent, solid performers but lacks star power. Fourth place in the East and an NIT berth would be a short-term success.

Commodores DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Kevin Stallings (first year; 123-63 overall, 6 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-15. SEC East: 5-11/5th.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Nashville, Tenn.
Home court: Memorial Gym (14,100).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
4	C	Darius Coulibaly	7-1	So.	1.0	2.2	0.0	53.3	50.0	00.0
10	G	Sam Howard	6-3	So.	8.0	2.1	1.0	37.1	73.9	36.7
14	G	Rick Jones	6-1	Fr.	Kentucky's Mr. Basketball has great range.					
42	F	Dan Langhi*	6-11	Sr.	17.7	7.3	1.2	41.8	84.4	38.5
52	F	Greg LaPointe*	6-10	Jr.	9.4	4.3	1.0	50.6	71.8	39.5
44	F	Sam Lekwauwa	6-8	Fr.	Native of Nigeria is imposing physical specimen.					
20	G	Deandre Moore	5-9	So.	3.3	1.7	2.7	37.7	55.3	31.0
5	G	Atiba Prater*	6-1	Sr.	5.9	2.2	3.4	33.6	56.8	28.2
13	G/F	James Strong*	6-3	Sr.	9.1	3.1	2.5	41.5	52.0	30.8
32	F	Anthony Williams	6-7	Jr.	5.3	5.8	0.4	40.0	72.9	31.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F/G	Vince Ford*	6-4	9.4	4.0	1.4	47.0	68.0	40.9
G/F	Michael LeBlanc	6-7	Dismissed from team.					
F	Iiro Tenngren	6-8	2.3	2.3	0.0	44.4	66.7	00.0

Schedule

N23 Belmont
N27 UT-Martin
N29 East Tennessee St.
D4 at Notre Dame
D7 Hofstra
D11 Wofford
D18 Western Kentucky
D20 Stetson
D22 at Florida State
D29 William & Mary
J5 Florida
J8 at Kentucky
J12 at Tennessee
J15 LSU
J22 Kentucky
J26 at South Carolina
J29 at Florida
F2 at Georgia
F9 Mississippi State
F12 at Alabama
F16 Auburn
F19 Tennessee
F23 at Arkansas
F26 at Mississippi
M1 Georgia
M4 South Carolina

5. Georgia

NATIONAL RANK 90

Frontcourt: Picking Georgia should have been a no-brainer for junior-college forwards Anthony Evans and Shon Coleman because there is plenty of playing time here. Evans is powerfully built and Coleman is more of a slasher, built along the lines of Jumaine Jones, who bolted for the NBA. Losing Jones and seniors Michael Chadwick and Jon Nordin leaves Jim Harrick looking for scoring in the frontcourt. It also leaves him looking for bodies, so landing Evans and Coleman was key. Harrick hopes Robb Dryden can be molded into a legit SEC player. Dryden has nice hands but has been an enigma. Lack of stamina and confidence is an obstacle Harrick must help Dryden overcome. Badi Oliver and Ryan Lewis are available, but neither is likely to contribute much.

Backcourt: G.G. Smith, a three-year starter, is gone, and there is no heir apparent. An incoming freshman didn't qualify, and Harrick was still scouring the bushes in August. Most likely, D.A. Layne, the SEC's top-scoring freshman last year, will slide over from shooting guard. If redshirt junior Adrian Jones has conquered the foot injuries that have sabotaged his career, he could fit in anywhere from a starter at small forward to a point guard candidate. Ezra Williams is this year's top freshman, and Terrence Edwards will help in the backcourt once football season is over.

Key to success: Somebody must morph into a point guard. Coleman and Evans have to contribute. If Dryden doesn't develop, the team will be small and vulnerable in the paint on defense.

Outlook: Harrick brings instant credibility. Players responded positively to him in the offseason, but his first year looks like a struggle with a patchwork lineup.

Bulldogs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jim Harrick (first year; 403-182 overall, 19 years; 17-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UCLA in 1995).
1998-99 record: 15-15. SEC East: 6-10/4th. Lost to Clemson in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Athens, Ga.
Home court: Stegeman Coliseum (10,523).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G/F	Alfred Bell	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Santa Fe (Fla.) Community College.					
	F	Shon Coleman	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Indian Hills Community College.					
34	C	Robb Dryden	7-1	So.	3.0	2.7	0.4	43.1	88.2	—
22	G	Terrence Edwards	6-1	So.	1.9	1.0	0.6	25.0	57.1	21.1
	F	Anthony Evans	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Neosho County (Kan.) CC.					
33	G	Shawn Fields	6-3	So.	2.2	1.0	0.3	32.6	78.6	27.8
11	G	Adrian Jones	6-5	Jr.	Redshirted with foot injury in 1998-99.					
32	G	D.A. Layne*	6-0	So.	12.7	2.8	2.1	43.1	72.2	41.2
44	F	Ryan Lewis	6-8	Fr.	Florida product probably won't play much.					
	G	Ramod Marshall	6-2	Fr.	Eligibility in question over the summer.					
13	F	Badi Oliver	6-8	Jr.	2.7	2.3	0.5	51.7	50.0	—
	G	Moses White	5-11	Fr.	Eligibility in question over the summer.					
	G	Ezra Williams	6-4	Fr.	Expected to be a major contributor this season.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Michael Chadwick*	6-4	9.4	5.6	2.1	46.2	66.1	36.1
C	Eric DeYoung	6-10	1.3	1.5	0.2	40.7	44.5	—
G	Sean Faulkner	5-9	0.0	2.0	1.5	00.0	00.0	00.0
G	Ray Harrison	6-2	9.7	2.6	2.7	39.6	74.7	37.0
F	Jumaine Jones*	6-7	18.8	9.5	1.2	44.5	72.6	34.8
G	Joey Kitchel	5-10	0.8	0.6	0.2	50.0	00.0	00.0
F	Jon Nordin*	6-8	4.5	2.7	0.2	48.3	55.0	43.3
G	G.G. Smith*	5-10	8.5	2.3	3.9	43.3	67.7	37.5

Schedule

N19 Appalachian St.
N20 at Furman
N24-27 Great Alaska Shootout
D1 Tennessee St.
D8 Georgia Tech
D11 at Wake Forest
D18 at Marshall
D21 Ark.-Little Rock
D23 Mercer
D28 at Minnesota
D30 Alaska-Anchorage
J5 at Miss. State
J8 at Auburn
J12 Arkansas
J15 Alabama
J19 at LSU
J22 South Carolina
J26 Kentucky
J30 at Villanova
F2 Vanderbilt
F5 at Florida
F9 at Tennessee
F12 Mississippi
F19 at Kentucky
F23 Florida
F26 at S. Carolina
M1 at Vanderbilt
M4 Tennessee

6. South Carolina

NATIONAL RANK 156

Frontcourt: Redshirt freshman Tony Kitchings replaces center Bud Johnson. Kitchings appears to have made the most of his limbo year by losing weight and becoming more mobile, and he should be a better offensive threat than Johnson. Expecting Kitchings to play heavy minutes still would be a stretch. His backups, Trevor Harvey and Marijonas Petravicius, are projects. Helping replace William Gallman and LeRon Williams at forward will be Damien Kinloch and Calvin Clemmons. Eventually, Clemmons should be Gallman's equal as a decent rebounder, but with more offensive skills. Kinloch has good hops but needs work as a scoring threat. Antonio Grant returns at small forward, but swingmen Chuck Eidson and Travis Kraft will push for minutes.

Backcourt: As dismal as the team was last year, what will it be like without BJ McKie? Aaron Lucas paid his dues and should be more confident as a sophomore playmaker. His awful shooting surely will improve, but the punchless Gamecocks need it to improve a lot. Shooting guard Herbert Lee Davis hasn't scared opponents yet, so Kraft, Eidson or both can win Eddie Fogler's favor by knocking down some shots. Jamel Bradley has range but needs to get stronger to play in the SEC.

Key to success: Scoring. If Grant and Davis don't step up their production, it's hard to see better times soon. Kitchings must pose a legitimate threat, and Eidson needs to hit the ground running.

Outlook: An optimist could say the players will be willing to take more individual responsibility instead of waiting for McKie to make a play. A realist could say their climb back up the hill won't be as swift as their surprising fall down it.

Gamecocks DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Eddie Fogler (93-85, 6 years; 235-165 overall, 13 years; 2-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 8-21. SEC East: 3-13/6th.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Home court: Frank McGuire Arena (12,401).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
10	G	Jamel Bradley	6-2	So.	2.4	0.4	0.5	38.5	66.7	33.3
32	F	Calvin Clemmons	6-7	Fr.	Good on boards and can provide decent offense.					
14	G/F	Herbert Lee Davis	6-5	Sr.	6.3	1.6	0.9	43.0	65.0	39.3
31	F	Chuck Eidson	6-7	Fr.	Could provide spark in backcourt.					
35	F	Antonio Grant*	6-5	Jr.	5.2	4.0	1.0	36.3	73.1	29.2
13	C	Trevor Harvey	6-11	Fr.	Raw, not-ready-for-prime-SEC-time player.					
4	F	Ivan Howell	6-7	Fr.	Averaged 18.5 points in senior prep season.					
33	F	Damien Kinloch	6-7	So.	2.2	2.7	0.4	36.2	57.1	—
50	C	Tony Kitchings	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
15	F	Travis Kraft	6-7	Fr.	North Dakota product could play some.					
5	G	Aaron Lucas*	5-11	So.	5.7	2.1	2.4	27.9	52.9	23.0
12	C	Marijonas Petravicius	6-10	Fr.	Lithuanian product needs seasoning.					
00	F	David Ross	6-5	Jr.	2.5	1.1	0.4	38.9	60.0	40.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	William Gallman*	6-7	7.2	6.4	0.3	51.5	64.8	—
C/F	Bud Johnson*	6-10	5.2	6.9	0.8	40.9	57.9	—
G	BJ McKie*	6-2	17.3	3.4	4.0	41.1	77.3	37.8
G	Recus Nix	6-3	2.0	1.6	0.6	30.8	55.6	18.8
G	Hagen Rouse	6-3	2.2	0.5	0.7	35.6	1.000	40.5
F	LeRon Williams	6-7	8.2	4.5	0.2	50.0	47.5	—

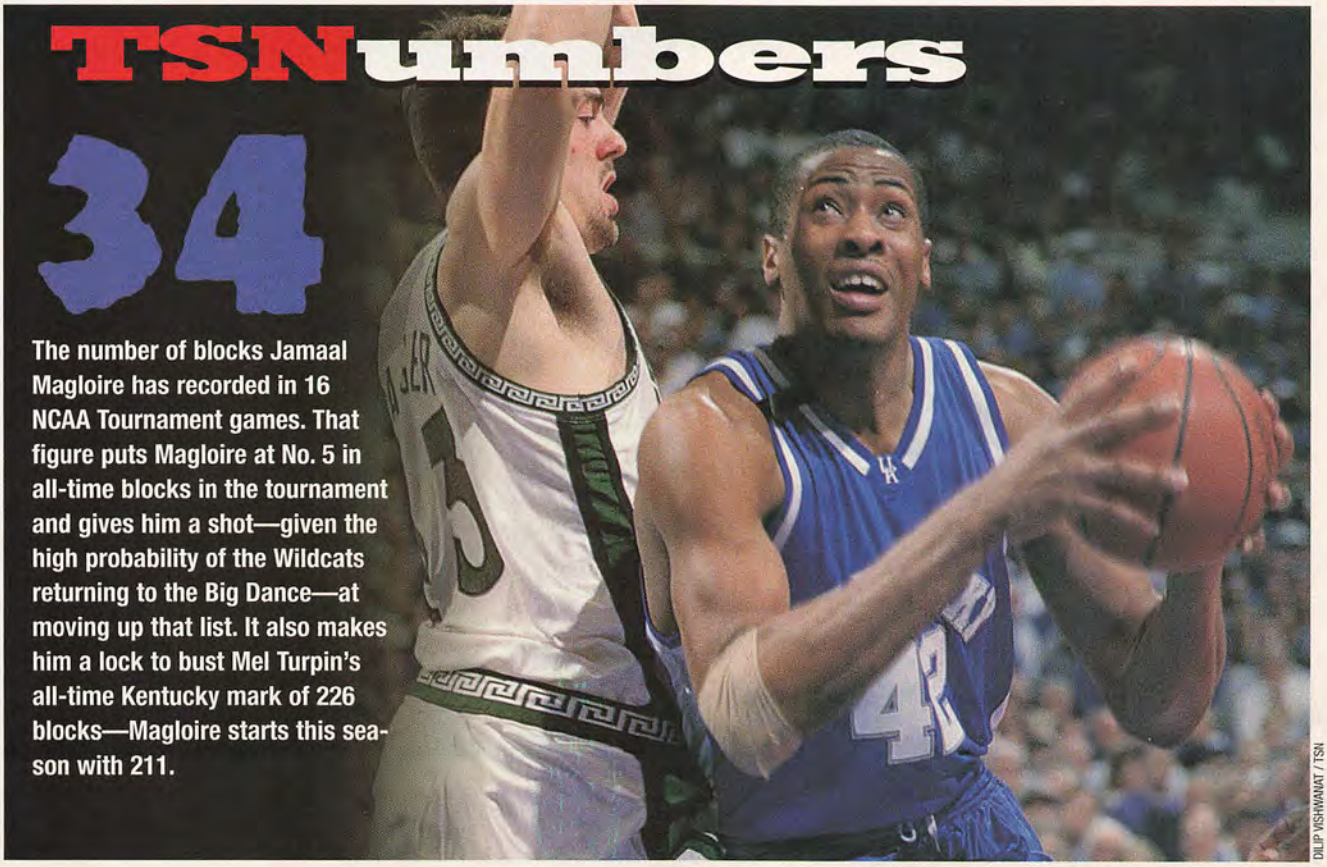
Schedule

N19 Wofford
N21 The Citadel
N25-27 Puerto Rico Shootout
N30 Charleston Southern
D4 Furman
D16 at Clemson
D18 Campbell
D21 at St. Joseph's
D28 UNC-Charlotte
D30 S. Carolina St.
J5 Tennessee
J8 at Arkansas
J13 Syracuse
J15 Kentucky
J19 at Auburn
J22 at Georgia
J26 Vanderbilt
J29 at Tennessee
F2 Florida
F5 at Kentucky
F9 at Ole Miss
F16 Mississippi State
F19 Alabama
F23 LSU
F26 Georgia
M1 at Florida
M4 at Vanderbilt

TSNumbers

34

The number of blocks Jamaal Magloire has recorded in 16 NCAA Tournament games. That figure puts Magloire at No. 5 in all-time blocks in the tournament and gives him a shot—given the high probability of the Wildcats returning to the Big Dance—at moving up that list. It also makes him a lock to bust Mel Turpin's all-time Kentucky mark of 226 blocks—Magloire starts this season with 211.



DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

WEST DIVISION

1. Auburn

NATIONAL RANK 4

Schedule

N19	UAB
N21	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N27	Stanford*
D1	Belmont
D5	Florida State
D13	Coppin State
D16	Bradley
D20-22	San Juan Shootout
D30	Southern Mississippi
J8	Georgia
J11	Kentucky
J15	at Mississippi State
J19	South Carolina
J22	at Mississippi
J25	at Tennessee
J29	Mississippi State
F2	Alabama
F5	Arkansas
F9	at LSU
F16	at Vanderbilt
F19	Ole Miss
F22	at Alabama
F27	at Florida
M1	LSU
M5	at Arkansas

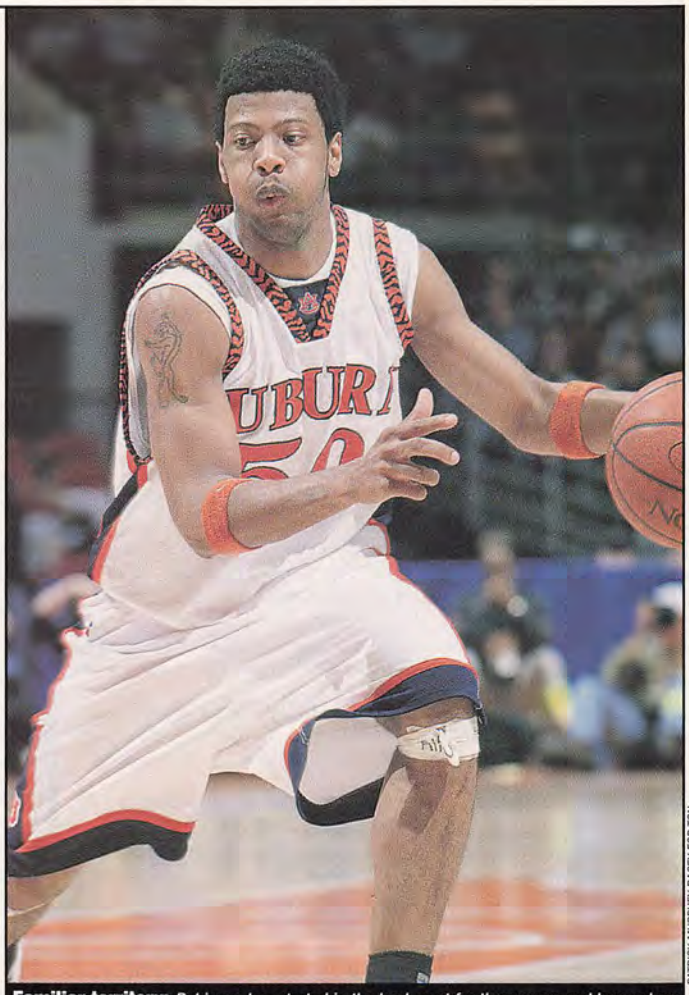
*Anaheim, Calif.

Frontcourt: Auburn is loaded with talent and experience up front, with 6-7 senior forward Chris Porter, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year last season, and 7-0 senior center Mamadou N'diaye, the conference's top shot blocker. Porter was even better than expected last season, averaging 16 points and 8.6 rebounds with a team-high 64 steals. He became the final piece of the puzzle in leading the Tigers to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1988. He is the kind of player who elevates a team and makes a good team great. He can score from anywhere on the floor, is a relentless rebounder and should have a stronger all-around game in his second season out of junior college. N'diaye is an intimidating presence on defense, with 77 blocks last season, and he has steadily improved on offense. Mack McGadney, a 6-7 sophomore who filled in well for Porter last season when Porter had to serve a three-game disciplinary suspension, appears ready to play a bigger role for the Tigers this season and will help fill the void left by the loss of all-SEC forward Bryant Smith. Sophomore David Hamilton, 6-9, also could start or play a key role off the bench. He missed most of last season after suffering a broken leg, but he is fully recovered and should be one of the conference's top young big men. Senior forward Adrian Person will lend depth and could play a key role off the bench. Less experienced forwards—sophomore Abe Smith and freshman Marquis Daniels—can be brought along slowly and won't be forced to play in pressure situations, thanks to the Tigers' wealth of talent.

Backcourt: Senior Doc Robinson and junior Scott Pohlman give Auburn the best and most experienced starting backcourt in the conference. Both are entering their third season as starters and complement each other well. Robinson is a smooth point guard and team leader who had a 5-to-2 assist-to-turnover ratio last season. He can hit a big shot when it is needed and is a hard-nosed defender. Pohlman, who is so young-looking that coach Cliff Ellis calls him "Opie," is Auburn's best perimeter shooter (a team-high 62 three-pointers last season). Robinson and Pohlman won't get worn down because Ellis has plenty of good players to spell them, led by sophomore Jay Heard, senior Daymeon Fishback, and juniors Reggie Sharp and Corey Watkins. Fishback was a starter two years ago but now figures to play 10 to 15 minutes off the bench, which is an indication of how far the Tigers have come from the days of dressing out just seven scholarship players. Sharp can spell Robinson at the point position, and Heard and Fishback bring in quick-scoring ability.

Key to success: This is a team with no apparent weaknesses. If the Tigers get beat, it will be because they beat themselves. The players need to remember how they won 29 games last season and continue to share the playing time and the glory, not start thinking about the NBA.

Outlook: If the Tigers can avoid injuries, they should be a top 10 team nationally, win a second consecutive conference championship and have a shot to go deep into the NCAA Tournament after reaching the Sweet 16 last season.



PATRICK MURPHEY-RACEY FOR TSN

Familiar territory: *Robinson has started in the backcourt for three years and knows how to run the Tigers without giving up the ball.*

Tigers DATA

Coach: Cliff Ellis (96-59, 5 years; 444-271 overall, 24 years; 5-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 29-4. SEC West: 14-2/1st. Lost to Ohio State in NCAA South semifinals.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Auburn, Ala. **Home court:** Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,500).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
14	G	Charlton Barker	5-11	So.	0.7	0.2	0.1	20.0	66.7	00.0
5	G	Jamison Brewer	6-4	Fr.	Good attitude and ballhandling skills.					
3	F	Marquis Daniels	6-6	Fr.	*Parade* All-American can be brought along slowly.					
23	G	Daymeon Fishback	6-5	Sr.	4.5	2.2	0.5	35.3	58.8	37.0
44	F	David Hamilton	6-9	So.	5.5	5.1	0.4	56.9	29.4	00.0
12	G	Jay Heard	6-3	So.	6.2	2.2	0.8	43.5	60.6	41.9
31	F	Mack McGadney	6-7	So.	5.1	3.1	0.3	37.7	61.2	23.5
34	C	Mamadou N'diaye*	7-0	Sr.	7.2	7.5	0.9	48.9	64.9	00.0
45	F	Adrian Person	6-8	Sr.	2.3	0.9	0.1	35.4	75.0	28.0
10	G	Scott Pohlman*	6-2	Jr.	11.8	2.2	1.6	40.7	86.3	38.7
4	F	Chris Porter*	6-7	Sr.	16.0	8.6	1.1	47.0	63.1	36.4
50	G	Doc Robinson*	6-2	Sr.	11.5	2.6	5.0	45.2	77.9	33.9
11	G	Reggie Sharp	6-1	Jr.	3.5	1.2	1.7	36.1	53.6	31.4
40	F	Abe Smith	6-7	So.	0.9	0.5	0.2	35.3	00.0	33.3
20	G	Corey Watkins	6-2	So.	1.2	0.6	0.5	38.5	00.0	50.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Adrian Chilliest	6-5	1.7	2.5	0.4	46.5	46.4	20.0
F	Bryant Smith*	6-5	11.0	6.2	1.3	45.4	60.8	27.1

2. Arkansas

NATIONAL RANK 30

Frontcourt: Chris Jefferies was expected to be a go-to player, but he pulled a surprise this summer and is transferring to Fresno State. Also gone are 7-0 center Jason Jennings, who has transferred to Arkansas State, and 6-9 forward Justin Hankins, who quit school. The only big men who will be eligible to start the season are Dionisio Gomez, Carl Baker and Alonzo Lane. The newcomers are good athletes who should fit well into the up-tempo, pressing system, but they figure to be inconsistent and need time to adjust to playing on the major-college level. Brandon Davis should help, but at 6-4 he's limited on what he can do inside.

Backcourt: Chris Walker, the only senior, isn't flashy, but he's a steady player the team will need to help bring along a group of talented sophomores and freshman Charles Tatum. Sophomore T.J. Cleveland and Tatum figure to share the point. Both are quick and good shooters, but sophomores Brandon Dean and Sergerio Gipson will be counted on more for scoring. Dean is an explosive player who can hit three-pointers; Gipson is more of a slasher. Jason Gilbert can supply perimeter shooting. There is enough depth for Nolan Richardson to rotate guards the way he likes, which keeps lots of pressure on opponents and uses three-guard lineups at times.

Key to success: The Razorbacks need Gomez, Baker and Lane to come along quickly and give them an inside presence.

Outlook: A lot of talent but little experience, so the Razorbacks could be up and down, especially early. Richardson's strength is molding his team to be playing well and together late in the season, so it could win 20 or more games and gain a berth to the NCAA Tournament.

Razorbacks DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Nolan Richardson (337-129, 14 years; 456-166 overall, 19 years; 26-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in 1994).
1998-99 record: 23-11. SEC West: 9-7/2nd. Lost to Iowa in NCAA West second round.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Fayetteville, Ark.
Home court: Bud Walton Arena (19,200).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
43	F	Carl Baker	6-7	Fr.	20 ppg, 12 rpg and 5 apg as senior.					
5	G	T.J. Cleveland	6-1	So.	4.0	1.6	1.8	42.3	65.5	44.2
20	G/F	Brandon Davis	6-4	Jr.	2.9	1.5	0.4	38.2	63.6	29.2
13	G	Brandon Dean	6-1	So.	7.0	2.3	1.5	45.5	51.5	36.6
4	G	Jason Gilbert	5-11	So.	2.8	0.4	0.3	30.0	66.7	32.3
23	G	Sergerio Gipson	6-3	So.	7.4	2.0	1.4	43.5	65.0	38.3
33	F	Dionisio Gomez	6-8	Fr.	Proposition 48 during 1998-99 season.					
24	F	Joe Johnson	6-7	Fr.	Academically ineligible for at least first semester.					
31	F	Alonzo Lane	6-7	Fr.	Averaged 26 points and 14 rebounds as senior.					
50	F	Larry Satchell	6-8	Fr.	Academically ineligible for at least first semester.					
3	G	Charles Tatum	5-9	Fr.	Could share point guard duties as freshman.					
41	G	Chris Walker*	6-5	Sr.	7.1	3.9	1.4	43.6	68.1	45.8

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Pat Bradley*	6-2	14.1	2.5	1.6	39.9	82.6	38.0
F	Joe Dean Davenport	6-7	1.4	1.2	0.1	50.0	71.4	00.0
F	Justin Hankins	6-7	1.0	0.8	0.2	34.8	50.0	50.0
F	Derek Hood*	6-8	12.4	10.3	1.8	56.5	68.2	00.0
F	Chris Jefferies*	6-8	Transferred to Fresno State.					
C	Jason Jennings	7-0	Transferred to Arkansas State.					
G	Kareem Reid*	5-10	10.4	2.5	5.3	39.9	76.9	32.1

Schedule

N22 Texas-Arlington
N26-28 Hawaii-Hilo Trn.
D4 Jackson State
D7 Oklahoma
D15 Tex.-Pan American
D18 Mercer
D20 Wake Forest
D28 Alcorn State
D30 Centenary
J2 at Memphis
J5 Mississippi
J8 South Carolina
J12 at Georgia
J19 at Alabama
J22 Mississippi State
J26 at LSU
F2 at Mississippi
F5 at Auburn
F9 Alabama
F12 at Mississippi State
F15 Florida
F19 LSU
F23 Vanderbilt
F26 at Kentucky
M1 at Tennessee
M5 at Auburn

3. Mississippi St.

NATIONAL RANK 58

Frontcourt: Instead of building around Jonathan Bender, who opted for the NBA, the team will depend heavily on Tang Hamilton, Robert Jackson and Marckell Patterson. Hamilton is the team's most explosive player and needs to get loose on the fast break. Jackson lacks the defensive presence of departed center Tyrone Washington but is a good offensive player who can get to the basket and the line. Patterson is the team's most aggressive player and should be stronger after bulking up in the offseason. Quentin Smith is a solid defender and should be in the rotation. Tyrus Boswell and Lincoln Smith could help off the bench.

Backcourt: Point guard Todd Myles—who briefly quit the team last season because he was upset about his playing time, then was allowed by Rick Stansbury to return after serving a suspension—needs to be a leader. Myles played well after being reinstated and in the summer completed his undergraduate degree in communications, so he's showing signs of maturing and taking over with the loss of Detrick White. Derrick Zimmerman is expected to improve the outside shooting and figures to compete with Michael Gholar for a starting job at shooting guard. Others who figure into the rotation are Antonio Jackson, who can play the point, Trey Sanders, Corey Stidham and T.J. Billups.

Key to success: After going back and forth on the running game last season, Stansbury must commit to running all-out, even if the Bulldogs struggle early.

Outlook: If Myles becomes a leader and Hamilton realizes his potential to be one of the SEC's best, Mississippi State could have another winning season and battle for second in the West.

Bulldogs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Rick Stansbury (20-13, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 20-13. SEC West: 8-8/T3rd. Lost to Colorado State in NIT first round.
Last league title:1996 (West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Starkville, Miss.
Home court: Humphrey Coliseum (10,500).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
4	F/G	T.J. Billups	6-4	Jr.	1.4	0.8	0.1	33.3	50.0	14.3
25	F	Tyrus Boswell	6-7	So.	2.1	1.4	0.1	38.1	42.9	12.5
21	F/G	Michael Gholar	6-5	So.	3.3	2.7	0.3	39.0	51.6	29.6
13	F/G	Ward Griffith	6-5	Jr.	Helped as body in practice last season.					
20	F	Tang Hamilton*	6-7	Jr.	11.3	5.7	0.6	47.9	69.5	32.8
11	G	Antonio Jackson	6-5	Jr.	Two-time all-league as a JC player.					
55	F/C	Robert Jackson	6-8	So.	5.9	3.9	0.2	53.2	66.1	—
5	G	Todd Myles	6-4	Sr.	4.9	1.8	3.3	51.4	58.8	41.4
24	F/G	Marckell Patterson*	6-5	So.	4.0	3.2	1.1	41.2	67.7	25.0
42	G	Trey Sanders	6-3	Fr.	Talented in-state point guard prospect.					
34	F/C	Lincoln Smith	6-10	Fr.	Could work his way into frontcourt picture.					
33	F/C	Quentin Smith	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Southern Mississippi.					
23	G	Corey Stidham	6-0	So.	Walk-on who may play some for Bulldogs.					
22	G	Derrick Zimmerman	6-3	Fr.	Class 4A player of year in Louisiana last season.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Bart Hyche*	5-11	5.2	1.0	1.0	31.1	78.7	25.4
G	Joe Marshall	6-2	Transferred to Purdue.					
F/C	Oral Roberts	6-7	7.5	5.9	0.4	53.8	63.9	—
C	Tyrone Washington*	6-10	12.7	8.4	0.9	50.2	65.0	00.0
G	Detrick White*	6-1	11.1	3.4	5.6	38.7	68.4	33.0

Schedule

N20 Alabama A&M
N23 Ark.-Pine Bluff
N26-28 Hoop & Quill Classic
D1 Southeastern La.
D4 Western Kentucky
D7 S.C. State
D11 Centenary
D21 Stanford*
D29-30 Cable Car Classic
J5 Georgia
J8 at Alabama
J12 at Mississippi
J16 Auburn
J19 at Jacksonville State
J22 at Arkansas
J29 at Auburn
F2 Louisiana State
F6 Tennessee
F9 at Vanderbilt
F12 Arkansas
F16 at South Carolina
F19 at Florida
F23 Mississippi
F26 at Louisiana State
F29 Kentucky
M4 Alabama
*Oakland, Calif.

4. Alabama

NATIONAL RANK 67

Frontcourt: The Tide is counting heavily on Schea Cotton, who should start at small forward but also could play shooting guard. He's a big-time talent who will help fill the scoring void left by the loss of Brian Williams. If Cotton is as good as advertised, Alabama could be a lot better a lot quicker. Jeremy Hays may be the SEC's best true center and appears set for a big year. Sam Haginas started some last season and should be ready to step into a bigger role. He's a solid rebounder and inside scorer and needs to work to get the line, where he shot 82 percent last season. Freshmen Kenny Walker and Erwin Dudley, part of one of the nation's best recruiting classes, are expected to play key roles for the Tide—one or both could start.

Backcourt: Tarik London figures to be the starter at point guard. He is a solid player and the most experienced guard. He does everything fairly well, but nothing really well. London will keep the job as long as he doesn't suffer the turnover problems that plagued him at times last season. Freshman Rod Grizzard is a good shooter who could start at the other guard spot and may show he can be the point guard if he handles the ball well. Freshmen Terrance Meade and D.J. Towns will challenge for playing time, but how much they can contribute early is questionable.

Key to success: The heralded recruiting class, especially Cotton, needs to have an immediate impact and play consistently for Alabama to be a contender in the SEC West.

Outlook: Mark Gottfried returned the Tide to respectability with an NIT bid and is doing a good job of upgrading the talent, but they probably are a year from a deep NCAA Tournament run.

Crimson Tide DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Mark Gottfried (17-15, 1 year; 85-39 overall, 4 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-15. SEC West: 6-10/5th. Lost to Wake Forest in NIT first round.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Home court: Coleman Coliseum (15,043).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
4	G	Schea Cotton	6-5	So.	JC All-American arrives with much acclaim.					
13	F	Solomon Davis	6-6	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
35	F/C	Erwin Dudley	6-8	Fr.	Averaged 21.3 ppg and 17.4 rpg as HS senior.					
21	G	Rod Grizzard	6-8	Fr.	Rated No. 1 small forward at 1998 Nike Camp.					
43	C/F	Sam Haginas*	6-8	So.	4.5	2.8	0.5	41.7	82.8	—
52	C	Jeremy Hays*	6-10	Sr.	12.0	8.4	1.1	47.7	77.1	33.3
5	G	Tarik London	6-1	Jr.	2.3	2.1	2.7	37.8	57.7	30.8
20	G	Doc Martin	6-3	Jr.	3.7	2.3	0.6	34.9	61.1	28.3
14	G	Terrance Meade	6-2	Fr.	Has strong all-around skills.					
40	F	Alfred Moss	6-8	Sr.	1.4	1.7	0.1	44.4	35.7	—
22	G	Travis Stinnett	5-11	Fr.	Redshirted with injury in 1998-99.					
11	G	D.J. Towns	6-2	Fr.	Highly-decorated Alabama prep product.					
42	F/C	Kenny Walker	6-9	Fr.	Florida kid is ready to play.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Neil Ashby	6-8	2.2	1.0	0.2	44.5	00.0	—
G	Chauncey Jones*	6-1	5.2	2.2	3.0	39.3	55.8	23.8
F	MC Mazique	6-10	9.4	6.8	1.0	51.8	71.4	33.3
F	Cedric Patton	6-7	2.0	0.9	0.4	32.5	44.4	26.3
G	Chris Rollins*	6-5	10.7	5.3	1.2	49.3	67.2	36.4
G	Brian Williams*	6-1	17.3	3.1	2.3	37.9	85.7	36.0
F	Sam Williams	6-8	1.1	1.0	0.1	35.7	50.0	—

Schedule

N13 Northern Iowa
N14 at Saint Louis
N22 Tennessee Tech
N26-27 Alabama Tournament
D2 Samford
D11 at Louisville
D18 at UT-Chattanooga
D21 Alabama A&M
D28-30 Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic
J5 at LSU
J8 Mississippi State
J15 at Georgia
J19 Arkansas
J22 Florida
J29 Mississippi
F2 at Auburn
F5 LSU
F9 at Arkansas
F12 Vanderbilt
F16 at Kentucky
F19 at South Carolina
F22 Auburn
F26 Tennessee
M1 at Mississippi
M4 at Mississippi State

5. LSU

NATIONAL RANK 113

Frontcourt: LSU should have one of the SEC's best front lines, led by Jabari Smith, Stromile Swift and Brian Beshara. Smith should be even bigger and stronger than last season, when he averaged 1.2 blocks. Swift didn't gain his academic eligibility last season until January, and with a full season he should develop into a big-time player. He is a strong inside force who averaged 2.2 blocks last season but had a tendency to get into foul trouble. If Swift can limit his fouls and stay on the floor, it will be a huge help for the Tigers. Beshara can play physically inside and is a good outside shooter who handles the ball well for his size. Brad Bridgewater and Ronald Dupree should help off the bench.

Backcourt: Taking care of the ball has been a big problem the last two seasons. Coach John Brady hopes to improve, but it may be tough with an inexperienced backcourt. Sophomore Jermaine Williams figures to start at the point and will give the team a tall presence (6-7) to help see over defenses. Freshman Torris Bright, who averaged 33.4 points as a high school senior, could be the starter at shooting guard and will need to supply an outside shooting threat. Collis Temple can play either guard spot and could be a key player. Other guards who could play off the bench include Lamont Roland, Brandon Landry and Jack Warner.

Key to success: The Tigers need to get some production out of the guards, in terms of scoring and limiting turnovers, so the big guys can get plenty of shots.

Outlook: LSU might have enough talent to end its streak of six consecutive losing seasons, but the guards have to play well enough to give the big men a chance to win games.

Tigers DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: John Brady (22-33, 2 years; 110-110 overall, 8 years).
1998-99 record: 12-15. SEC West: 4-12/6th.
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baton Rouge, La.
Home court: Pete Maravich Assembly Center (14,164).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F	Brian Beshara*	6-8	Jr.	11.0	5.3	2.1	46.6	61.9	43.1
54	F	Brad Bridgewater	6-8	So.	2.0	1.8	0.2	40.4	53.8	—
	G	Torris Bright	6-4	Fr.	Big-time scorer who could start right away.					
15	G	Jeremy Comeaux	6-2	So.	Provided Tigers with help in practice last year.					
12	G/F	Ronald Dupree	6-7	Fr.	25 points, 10 rebounds as high school senior.					
40	F	Brian Helquist	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted in 1998-99.					
11	G	Brandon Landry	6-0	So.	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
43	G	Lamont Roland	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Barton County CC.					
52	C	Jabari Smith*	6-11	Sr.	12.7	9.7	1.9	50.7	69.0	24.5
4	F	Stromile Swift	6-9	So.	7.6	4.3	0.3	40.9	60.0	12.5
41	G	Collis Temple III	6-6	Fr.	Redshirted with injury in 1998-99.					
45	G	Jack Warner	6-4	Sr.	1.6	0.0	0.0	33.3	83.3	50.0
31	F	Jermaine Williams	6-7	So.	5.4	3.1	1.3	43.6	78.1	41.3

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Willie Anderson*	6-4	7.3	2.9	2.9	39.6	62.5	22.7
F	Cedric Carter	6-7	4.4	4.9	0.4	48.5	50.0	—
G	Maurice Carter*	6-4	17.3	5.7	1.2	43.8	64.2	41.5
G	Darryl Cooper	6-1	Transferred to Georgia State.					
F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8	Transferred to Tulsa.					
G	Omar-Seli Mance*	6-0	Transferred to Rice.					
G	Jamaal Wolfe	6-0	Transferred to Southeastern Louisiana.					

Schedule

N20 Grambling State
N22 SE Louisiana
N26-28 Honolulu Shootout
D11 Alcorn State
D14 UT-Martin
D18 Sam Houston State
D21 Centenary
D23 Nicholls State
D27 Howard
D30 Oklahoma State*
J5 Alabama
J8 Tennessee
J12 at Florida
J15 at Vanderbilt
J19 Georgia
J26 Arkansas
J29 Arizona
F2 at Mississippi State
F5 at Alabama
F9 Auburn
F13 Kentucky
F16 at Mississippi
F19 at Arkansas
F23 at South Carolina
F26 Mississippi State
M1 at Auburn
M4 Mississippi
* New Orleans

6. Mississippi

NATIONAL RANK 190

Frontcourt: Marcus Hicks will be the go-to player inside and needs to continue stepping up the way he did in the NCAA Tournament. He also is a strong defensive player who led the Rebels in blocks (46). Rahim Lockhart figures to start at center and is a strong, physical player who must be more consistent and stay out of foul trouble. Darrian Brown is the top candidate to start at small forward, but he must improve his 3-point shooting (21.9 percent). John Engstrom, who has been plagued by knee injuries, finally will get a chance to show he can play. Others who could help are Lataryl Williams, Richard Kirklin and John Gunn.

Backcourt: Jason Flanigan and Jason Harrison will share the point with Michael White gone. Flanigan is a tough all-around player who will be the defensive stopper. He is a good shooter but should be more comfortable back at the point after playing mostly shooting guard last season. Harrison is 5-5 but offsets his size with great quickness and daring. Jason Holmes is the top candidate to replace Keith Carter at shooting guard. Holmes is athletic and should score well slashing to the basket. Aaron Harper figured to play as a freshman but is academically ineligible. Others who could help are Emmanuel Wade and Josh Hayes.

Key to success: Players who handled supporting roles well—Hicks, Flanigan, Harrison and Lockhart—must step into bigger roles this season with the losses of Carter, White and Jason Smith.

Outlook: After three consecutive NCAA bids, it figures to be a rebuilding season with the loss of so many key players. Whether the Rebels can produce a winning record and gain a postseason bid will be a major challenge for coach Rod Barnes.

Rebels DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Rod Barnes (20-13, 1 year; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-13. SEC West: 8-8/T3rd. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest second round.
Last league title: 1998 (SEC West).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1996.
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Home court: Tad Smith Coliseum (8,135).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F	Darrian Brown	6-6	So.	4.1	2.0	0.7	32.8	80.6	21.9
54	C	John Engstrom	7-0	So.	1.0	1.8	0.6	30.0	100.0	—
3	G	Jason Flanigan*	6-1	Jr.	4.8	2.6	2.4	35.1	65.8	18.4
31	F/C	John Gunn	6-11	Fr.	Led HS team to victory over Jonathan Bender's.					
5	G	Aaron Harper	6-5	Fr.	Played in three straight Miss. 5A title games.					
12	G	Jason Harrison	5-5	So.	6.3	1.7	2.6	36.8	79.3	38.9
30	F	Josh Hayes	6-6	Fr.	One of top 10 prospects in Arkansas last season.					
24	F	Marcus Hicks*	6-6	Sr.	11.7	5.4	1.1	63.8	53.8	00.0
20	G	Jason Holmes	6-5	Jr.	JC transfer averaged 17.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg last year.					
45	F	Richard Kirklin	6-8	Fr.	Like Hayes, a top prospect from Arkansas.					
44	F	Rahim Lockhart	6-8	Jr.	7.4	4.9	0.9	58.1	45.9	—
23	G	Syniker Taylor	6-0	So.	Football signee did not play basketball (injury).					
32	G	Emmanuel Wade	6-3	Fr.	Ark. native is very athletic and a good defender.					
25	G/F	Lataryl Williams	6-7	Sr.	3.1	1.5	0.5	39.8	56.0	31.0

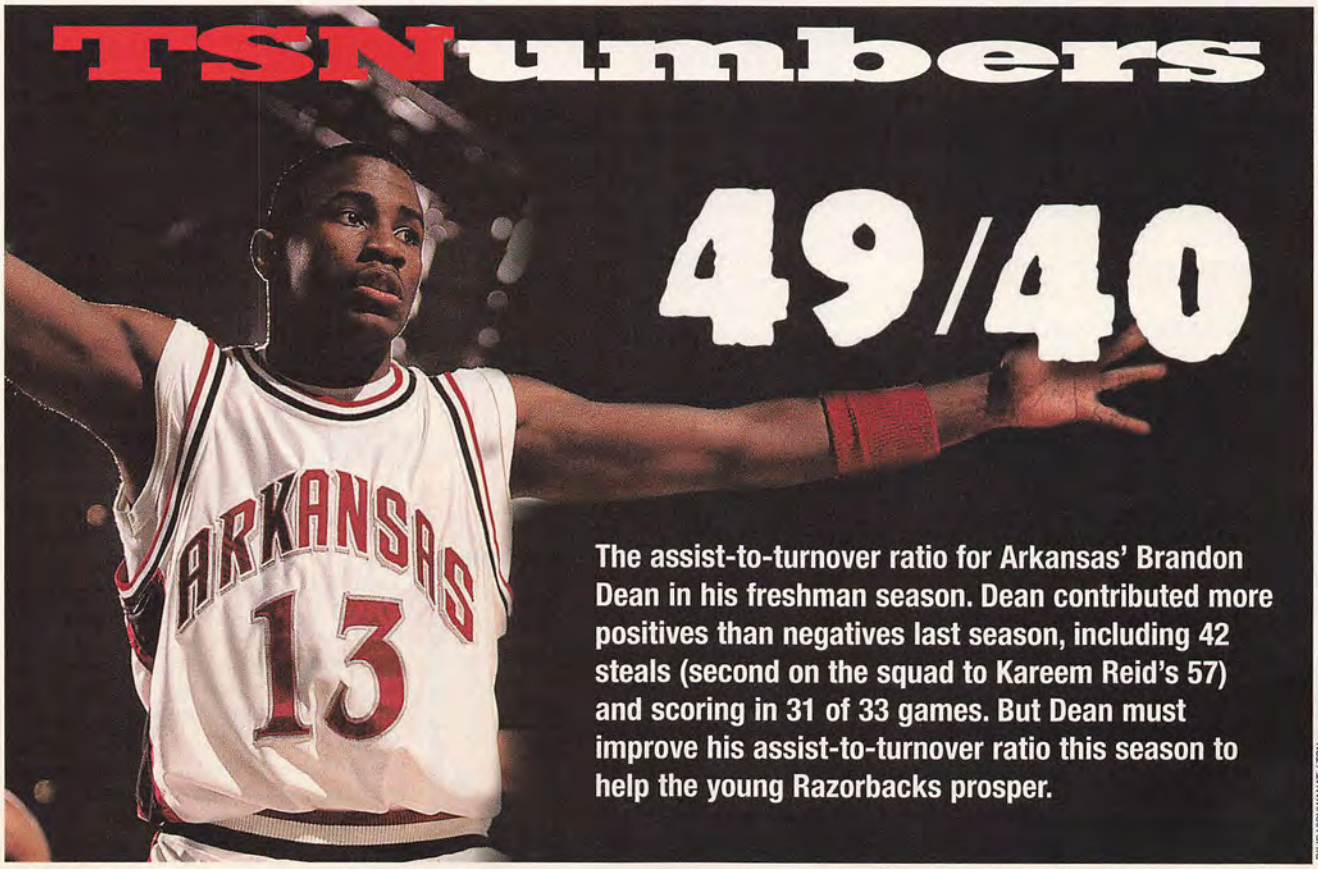
LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Jon Cantrell	6-8	4.8	1.8	0.8	44.4	50.0	38.5
G	Hunter Carpenter	6-0	4.9	0.6	0.8	45.3	64.3	32.4
G	Keith Carter*	6-4	16.4	4.6	2.0	44.7	73.2	35.0
G	Matt Pruitt	6-4	2.2	1.0	0.2	61.1	66.7	—
F	Johnnie Rogers	6-9	4.1	3.0	0.2	59.6	56.5	—
F	Jason Smith*	6-6	12.9	5.6	2.8	47.8	53.7	10.5
G	Michael White*	6-1	5.2	1.9	3.0	42.0	65.6	33.8

Schedule

N19	Jacksonville St.	D7	VCU		A&M	J22	Auburn	F19	at Auburn
N23	McNeese St.	D11	Memphis	J5	at Arkansas	J29	at Alabama	F23	at Miss. St.
N26	at Furman	D15	SE Louisiana	J8	Florida	F2	Arkansas	F26	Vanderbilt
D1	at Alabama St.	D19	Univ. of La.-Monroe	J12	Mississippi St.	F9	South Carolina	M1	Alabama
D4	at Oklahoma	D29	Prairie View	J15	at Tennessee	F12	at Georgia	M4	at LSU
				J19	at Kentucky	F16	LSU		

TSNumbers



The assist-to-turnover ratio for Arkansas' Brandon Dean in his freshman season. Dean contributed more positives than negatives last season, including 42 steals (second on the squad to Kareem Reid's 57) and scoring in 31 of 33 games. But Dean must improve his assist-to-turnover ratio this season to help the young Razorbacks prosper.

DILIP VISHWANAT / TSN

Inside dish

WAC

RANK 10

ASCENDING: SMU. Coach Mike Dement's Mustangs broke even with a sophomore-dominated squad last season. They could break through as juniors, led by Jeryl Sasser, Willie Davis and Chad Elsey. Add in senior Stephen Woods, who mans the point guard spot, and the Mustangs look ready to run.

DESCENDING: Hawaii. The Rainbows won 21 games and advanced to the NIT two consecutive years before dropping to 6-20 last season. Life without Anthony Carter and Alika Smith was much tougher than expected.

BIGGEST SNEAKERS TO FILL: TCU's Lee Nailon. Billy Tubbs' high-octane teams are at their best when Tubbs has a beast in the post to complement his perimeter shooters. Remember what his Oklahoma teams did when Wayman Tisdale and Stacey King manned the pivot? Nailon was the leading scorer in the old WAC's final season. Kentucky transfer Myron Anthony comes aboard as Marquise Gainous' new tag-team partner.

MOST UNDERRATED PLAYER: Tulsa's Eric Coley. The small forward doesn't get much publicity because he was the fourth-leading scorer on his team. But coach Bill Self will tell you Coley is arguably the Golden Hurricane's MVP. Evidence? Coley missed four games after the death of his mother two seasons ago, and Tulsa went 1-3. When Coley returned for rematches against those opponents, the Hurricane went 4-0.

MOST OVERRATED PLAYER: TCU's Vladimir Jaksic. Though not a marquee player, Jaksic needs to live up to his reputation as a marksman. As a member of Croatia's national 22-under team, he shot .377 from the field and .333 from the free-throw line in league play last season.

COACH ON THE HOT SEAT: Nobody, really. Hawaii's Riley Wallace is one of only two league coaches coming off a losing season (the other, Phil Johnson of San Jose State, left to become an assistant with the Chicago Bulls.), but Wallace isn't in trouble. He has three years remaining on his contract and a supportive athletic director who knows how tough it is to stock a program without a recruiting base.

BEST BETS: Nobody will blame a league defeat on altitude. That excuse was readily available when the Rocky Mountain-area schools were in the WAC.

ODDS AND ENDS: Fresno's Terrance Roberson was supposed to be a senior last season but took advantage of an NCAA rule that returns a year of eligibility to Prop 48 kids who graduate in four years. Utah's Andre Miller took advantage of the rule last season. ... Nine of UTEP's 12 losses last season were to teams that advanced to the NIT or NCAA Tournament. ... San Jose State's R.J. Powell, who has an injury-tainted past, was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA. ... Rice point guard Mike Wilks is 5-10 but led the Owls in rebounding four times last season. ... One sign that SMU's program is on the rise: It had trouble completing its schedule. ... One big reason why UTEP, Rice, San Jose State and Hawaii are picked to finish in the bottom half of the division: They combined to win six road games last season. ... This will be the first season for the downsized WAC. The league was a 16-team entity for the past three seasons, but eight schools departed to form the Mountain West Conference. The eight remaining WAC teams combined to win 132 games last season. The eight teams in the Mountain West also won 132. ... Tulsa and TCU are the only current WAC squads that made NCAA Tournament appearances as members of the 16-team WAC. The Golden Hurricane went in 1997 and '99 and the Horned Frogs in '98. ... The WAC will spend one season as an eight-team conference. League presidents voted to add a ninth school, Nevada, for competition in 2000-2001. Nevada, a Big West member, will provide improved East-West balance.

By Jimmie Tramel *Tulsa World*

Predictions

1. Fresno State	5. Texas-El Paso
2. Tulsa	6. Rice
3. Texas Christian	7. San Jose State
4. Southern Methodist	8. Hawaii

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jeryl Sasser, SMU	6-6	200	Jr.
G	Courtney Alexander, Fresno State	6-6	200	Sr.
F	Brandon Kurtz, Tulsa	6-10	245	Sr.
F	Marquise Gainous, TCU	6-9	230	Sr.
F	Melvin Ely, Fresno State	6-9	240	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Stephen Woods, SMU	6-0	195	Sr.
G	Ryan Carroll, TCU	6-4	190	Jr.
F	Terrance Roberson, Fresno State	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Eric Coley, Tulsa	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Brandon Wolfram, UTEP	6-9	230	Jr.

Player of the Year

Jeryl Sasser, G, SMU

Newcomer of the Year

Estell Laster, G, TCU

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Ryan Carroll, TCU
Best rebounder: Marquise Gainous, TCU
Best playmaker: Jeryl Sasser, SMU
Best defender: Melvin Ely, Fresno State
Best leaper: Eric Coley, Tulsa
Most versatile: Jeryl Sasser, SMU
Most flamboyant: Jeryl Sasser, SMU
Best NBA prospect: Courtney Alexander, Fresno State

Ranking the Recruiting



1. TCU: Shooting guard Bingo Merriex averaged 31 points as a senior.
2. Tulsa: Frontcourt gets a boost.
3. San Jose State: Several JC transfers as headliners.
4. Fresno State: Guard Tito Maddox's eligibility could be in question.
5. SMU: 6-6 swingman Quinton Ross scored a game-high 34 points in high school all-star game.
6. Hawaii: Seven-footer Todd Fields and three JC transfers.
7. Rice: Four high school prospects, including 6-9 Brandon Evans.
8. UTEP: 6-2 guard Drew Price averaged 20 points as a senior.

More on the WAC at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1. Fresno State

NATIONAL RANK 36

Frontcourt: Center Melvin Ely, who was named to the WAC's all-newcomer and all-defensive teams last season, ranked 12th nationally in blocked shots. Terrance Roberson has started 52 of Fresno State's past 53 games, but he needs to improve his shooting (.395 from the field and .295 from 3-point range last season). Larry Abney led the Bulldogs in rebounding last season. Swingman Travis Robinson, an academic casualty in 1998-99, is projected for a sixth-man role.

Backcourt: Point guard Chris Herren has moved to the pros, but shooting guard Courtney Alexander opted to return for his senior season. Alexander, an outstanding scorer, thinks the Bulldogs lacked floor leadership last season and hopes to shoulder that burden. Point guard will be manned by Demetrius Porter, who started seven games last season, and Nick Irvin.

Key to success: The Bulldogs have been their own worst enemy in recent years (too many off-court distractions), but they boasted a cleaner slate last season and will need to maintain good behavior to squeeze the most out of a rich talent pool. Fresno State also needs to avoid RPI-killing slumps. The Bulldogs lost five consecutive games in non-conference play two years ago and lost four of six in another non-league stretch last season.

Outlook: Coach Jerry Tarkanian doesn't want to retire until he guides his alma mater into the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs won at least 20 games each of the past four seasons but had to settle for NIT berths. With four starters back, the Shark will be swimming in NCAA Tournament waters for the first time since he was runnin' with the UNLV Rebels.

Bulldogs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Jerry Tarkanian (85-47, four years; 710-169 overall, 28 years; 37-16 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title with UNLV in 1990).
1998-99 record: 21-12. WAC: 9-5/3rd Pacific Division. Lost to Nebraska in NIT 1st round.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Fresno, Calif. **Home court:** Selland Arena (10,220).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
21	F	Larry Abney*	6-8	Sr.	6.2	7.0	0.8	55.9	67.2	00.0
32	G	Courtney Alexander*	6-6	Sr.	21.4	3.8	2.6	46.9	75.7	31.6
23	F	Andre Bona	6-7	So.	0.3	0.5	0.3	11.1	00.0	16.7
22	G	Travis DeManby	6-3	So.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
33	C	Melvin Ely*	6-9	Jr.	11.2	6.5	0.5	56.2	43.2	50.0
	C/F	Noel Felix	6-9	Fr.	Will add size to middle, out of Inglewood High.					
35	F	Randy Holcomb	6-8	Jr.	5.3	3.0	0.6	49.2	56.6	42.1
31	G	Nick Irvin	6-0	Jr.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
	G	Tito Maddox	6-4	Fr.	Out of Compton High.					
11	G	Mike McIntyre	5-11	So.	0.0	0.7	1.2	00.0	50.0	00.0
5	G	Demetrius Porter	6-0	Jr.	6.1	1.6	2.6	43.4	80.0	38.6
44	F	Terrance Roberson*	6-7	Sr.	12.3	5.9	2.1	39.5	68.8	29.5
4	F	Travis Robinson		So.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Chris Herren*	6-3	11.4	1.6	7.2	40.8	68.2	38.3
G	Willie Farley	6-5	12.0	5.7	1.5	45.5	62.8	36.6

Schedule

N19 at Georgia State
N23 Pepperdine
N25-28 Hawaii Pacific Classic
N30 Cal State Northridge
D6 San Francisco
D11 at UAB
D14 Santa Clara
D16 Florida Atlantic
D18 at Pacific
D21-22 Coors Light Classic
J4 at Utah State
J7 High Point
J15 UTEP
J20 at TCU
J22 at SMU
J27 Rice
J29 Tulsa
F3 at San Jose State
F5 at Hawaii
F12 at UTEP
F17 SMU
F19 TCU
F24 at Tulsa
F26 at Rice
M1 San Jose State
M4 Hawaii

2. Tulsa

NATIONAL RANK 52

Frontcourt: Brandon Kurtz has the potential to be one of the best post scorers in school history. The former junior-college standout averaged a team-leading 11.9 points—14.1 in league play—while adjusting to Division I ball last season. Zac Bennett might have been a starter at power forward this season, but he and fellow senior John Cornwell transferred to NAIA schools. Sophomore DeAngelo McDaniel, whose rookie season was sabotaged by back problems, is the only remaining post player with playing experience. Small forward Eric Coley, who makes across-the-board contributions, returns for a third year as a starter.

Backcourt: Tony Heard got the floor time necessary last season to blossom into a leader. Junior Marcus Hill returns for his second season as the No. 1 shooting guard. Hill made 42.3 percent of his 3-point attempts in league play and is out to make a name for himself after playing alongside Syracuse's Etan Thomas in the Tulsa high school ranks. Greg Harrington was the WAC Mountain Division freshman of the year last season.

Key to success: Tulsa needs to develop a secondary post scorer to keep defenses from concentrating on Kurtz. That player could be Kevin Johnson, who sat out last season because of a stress fracture, or JC transfer David Shelton.

Outlook: Tulsa was 7-0 last season against teams in the new WAC—so why isn't it favored to win the conference crown? Primarily because of the departure of Michael Ruffin, the school's all-time leading shot blocker and rebounder. Someone will have to do Ruffin's dirty work if Tulsa hopes to reach the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in seven seasons.

Golden Hurricane DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Bill Self (42-22, 2 years; 98-75 overall, 6 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-10. WAC: 9-5/T1st Mountain Division. Lost to Duke in NCAA East second round.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Tulsa, Okla.
Home court: Reynolds Center (8,300).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
11	F	Eric Coley*	6-5	Sr.	9.1	5.4	2.6	46.8	61.1	27.8
2	F	Charlie Davis	6-7	Fr.	Averaged 17.6 points, 12.3 rebounds as senior.					
10	G	Greg Harrington	6-2	So.	8.5	2.1	2.0	42.7	71.3	37.2
32	G	Tony Heard*	6-0	Sr	8.1	1.4	2.4	39.3	85.5	39.1
31	G	Marcus Hill*	6-5	Jr.	11.3	4.0	1.8	38.9	75.7	41.4
22	G	Demario Hooper	6-4	Fr.	Adds big presence in the middle at 224 pounds.					
34	F	Kevin Johnson	6-7	Fr.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
13	C	Brandon Kurtz*	6-10	Sr.	11.9	6.0	1.0	51.1	66.7	25.8
1	F	Marqus Ledoux	6-8	So.	Transferred from LSU.					
55	F	DeAngelo McDaniel	6-9	So.	2.2	2.5	0.4	37.0	65.6	00.0
15	G	Clint Mills	6-5	Fr.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
14	G	Antonio Reed	5-10	Fr.	*Tulsa World*'s Oklahoma Player of the Year.					
33	F	David Shelton	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Independence CC.					
12	G	Dante Swanson	5-10	Fr.	All-State selection senior year.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Robert Bell	6-6	0.8	0.7	0.2	23.1	50.0	16.7
C/F	Zac Bennett	6-9	Transferred/TBA.					
F	John Cornwell	6-9	Transferred/TBA.					
G	Jeff Platt	6-1	0.8	0.4	0.4	38.5	60.0	30.0
F	Michael Ruffin*	6-8	11.6	10.4	1.4	52.7	60.3	00.0
G	Shawn Williams	5-10	5.0	1.1	1.2	32.9	73.9	31.0

Schedule

N21 at R. Island
N24 Georgia State
N27 Ark.-Pine Bluff
N29 at St. Joseph's (Pa.)
D1 Texas-San Antonio
D4 UAB
D7 SW Missouri St.
D11 at Oral Roberts
D18 Delaware State
D21-23 Puerto Rico Holiday Classic
D28 Missouri-Kansas City
D30 at North Texas
J8 at TCU
J12 at Creighton
J15 at Rice
J20 San Jose State
J22 Hawaii
J24 Centenary
J27 at UTEP
J29 at Fresno State
F3 SMU
F5 TCU
F12 Rice
F17 at Hawaii
F19 at San Jose St.
F24 Fresno State
F26 UTEP
M4 at SMU

3. TCU

NATIONAL RANK 53

Frontcourt: Marquise Gainous played a mean second fiddle to Lee Nailon last season, ranking eighth in WAC scoring and leading the league in field-goal percentage. With Nailon gone, Gainous becomes the Horned Frogs' go-to guy. When Nailon was ejected early in a game against UNLV last season, Gainous rose to the occasion and scored 41 points. Junior-college import Derrick Davenport could be an important piece of the puzzle, along with lanky redshirt freshman Rebel Paulk. Kentucky transfer Myron Anthony becomes eligible in mid-December.

Backcourt: Swingman Ryan Carroll led the league in 3-point percentage last season and will be the only familiar face in a three-guard lineup. Expect Billy Tubbs to rotate three players in the other two spots—junior-college transfers Larry Allaway and Estell Laster and holdover Thomas McTyer. Allaway replaces Prince Fowler, an adept assist man and long-range shooter. Laster began his collegiate career at Oklahoma State, but he dropped to the junior-college level in search of more playing time. Also in the picture: freshman Bingo Merrieux.

Key to success: Tubbs is convinced he has the talent, but an adjustment period is necessary when you rely on newcomers. If the Horned Frogs work out their kinks by the beginning of league play, watch out.

Outlook: TCU was an NCAA Tournament-caliber squad last season before a brief suspension of Nailon sent the Horned Frogs reeling to the NIT. Now the Frogs will try to endure without Nailon. Because of Tubbs' ability to reload with high-octane recruits, TCU again will be a force.

Horned Frogs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Billy Tubbs (101-56, 5 years; 540-256 overall, 25 years; 18-12 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-11. WAC: 7-7/T4th Mountain Division. Lost to Oregon in NIT third round.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Fort Worth, Texas.

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	G	Larry Allaway	5-11	Jr.	Transferred from Howard County CC.					
	F	Myron Anthony	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Kentucky.					
25	G/F	Ryan Carroll*	6-4	Jr.	14.0	5.2	2.3	51.1	59.7	43.0
	C	Derrick Davenport	6-10	Jr.	Transferred from Jacksonville CC.					
33	F	Marquise Gainous*	6-9	Jr.	18.3	8.7	1.5	58.1	75.3	30.0
20	G/F	Vladimir Jaksic*	6-9	Jr.	7.4	1.9	1.9	40.1	51.6	38.3
	G	Estell Laster	6-2	Jr.	Transferred from Seminole State JC.					
5	G/F	Shannon Long	6-7	Sr.	7.9	5.3	2.8	49.4	62.7	42.4
3	G	Thomas McTyer	5-11	Jr.	2.1	0.5	1.7	32.4	66.7	44.4
	G	Bingo Merrieux	6-6	Fr.	Adds size at guard.					
44	C	Rebel Paulk	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
22	G	Derale Wilson	6-5	Sr.	3.2	0.9	0.8	46.3	66.7	30.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Jon Day	Transferred to Texas A&M-Kingsville.						
G	Prince Fowler*	5-10	10.3	3.3	7.1	40.0	71.3	37.2
F	Scott Gradney	6-9	3.8	2.3	0.6	48.8	70.0	66.7
G	Lee Moon Jr.	Transferred to Wyoming.						
F	Lee Nailon*	6-9	22.8	9.3	2.5	50.8	71.5	26.7

Schedule

N18-21 Top of the World Classic
N27 Univ. of La.-Monroe
N30 Northwestern State
D4 at Arkansas State
D6 Texas-San Antonio
D9 at Princeton
D11 SW Missouri State
D19 Texas-Arlington
D21 Eastern Michigan
D23 Louisiana Tech
D28 Butler
D30 Grambling
J2 North Texas
J6 Tulsa
J8 at SW Missouri St.
J13 at San Jose State
J15 at Hawaii
J20 Fresno State
J22 UTEP
J29 SMU
F3 at Rice
F5 at Tulsa
F10 Hawaii
F12 San Jose State
F17 at UTEP
F19 at Fresno State
F26 at SMU
M4 Rice

4. SMU

NATIONAL RANK 81

Frontcourt: Swingman Willie Davis played power forward last season so the Mustangs could get their best players on the floor at the same time. When Davis played well, so did SMU. He averaged 12.4 points overall but scored at a 15.6 clip in the Mustangs' 15 victories. SMU depended on freshmen Mike Niemi, Nigel Smith, Jon Forinash and DeWayne Floyd in the post. Those four should be more productive as sophomores, though Smith's status is questionable because of offseason nose surgery.

Backcourt: The Mustangs can trump most opponents with a talented and experienced three-guard lineup. Jeryl Sasser was the WAC Mountain Division's player of the year as a sophomore last season, becoming the first player to lead SMU in scoring, rebounding, assists and steals in one season. Point guard Stephen Woods has made 79 career starts and is capable of taking over games down the stretch. Chad Elsey, who was quietly the Mustangs' No. 2 scorer last season, spent his second consecutive summer recovering from a knee injury, but he should be ready.

Key to success: SMU must develop its young frontcourt. The Mustangs are up-and-comers with great perimeter players, but they often were outmatched in the paint last season. Also, they can't afford another slow start—they lost to Alaska-Anchorage, Alcorn State and Navy last December—if they want to be considered by postseason selection committees.

Outlook: This is still a young team with only two scholarship seniors, but the Mustangs could arrive one year early. All five starters and 13 lettermen return from a team that swept three meetings against UNLV and won seven of its final 10 games.

Mustangs DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Mike Dement (57-57, 4 years; 179-180, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-15. WAC: 7-7/T4th Mountain Division.
Last league title: 1993 (SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dallas.
Home court: Moody Coliseum (8,998).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
12	G	Anthony Anderson	6-3	Sr.	0.4	0.4	0.2	12.5	00.0	12.5
3	G	Renaldo Bratton	6-0	Jr.	3.3	1.1	0.7	35.6	68.4	25.5
45	F	Copley Broer	6-7	Sr.	1.1	1.8	0.3	50.0	20.0	00.0
34	G/F	Willie Davis*	6-6	Jr.	12.4	7.2	1.3	44.6	60.6	25.9
30	G	Chad Elsey*	6-7	Jr.	13.4	3.2	2.1	43.4	75.0	31.2
43	F	DeWayne Floyd	6-8	So.	3.5	5.0	0.4	44.2	29.2	26.1
54	C	Jon Forinash	6-11	So.	1.3	2.3	0.3	37.8	30.4	00.0
4	G	Damon Hancock	6-4	So.	4.4	1.4	0.2	29.7	58.8	20.7
33	F	Jibran Kelley	6-8	Fr.	Honorable mention All-American by *USA Today*.					
20	G	Tom Nabity	5-10	Sr.	0.3	0.0	0.2	00.0	100	00.0
55	F	Mike Niemi*	6-8	So.	3.6	3.9	0.4	33.8	64.3	50.0
13	G	Quinton Ross	6-6	Fr.	Averaged 19 points, nine rebounds as senior.					
5	G	Jeryl Sasser*	6-6	Jr.	18.7	8.5	3.5	41.3	72.2	29.2
50	C	Nigel Smith	6-10	So.	3.3	3.8	0.2	39.2	45.8	00.0
23	G	Stephen Woods*	6-0	Sr.	12.9	3.3	2.4	37.0	78.9	34.4

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Josh Ihde	6-8	1.1	1.5	0.0	37.5	0.00	50.0

Schedule

N23 Lamar
N29 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D1 at Missouri
D3-4 Pizza Hut Classic
D11 Stony Brook
D16 Richmond
D20 at UT Chattanooga
D23 Navy
D31 at Tulane
J2 New Mexico State
J8 Rice
J13 at Hawaii
J15 at San Jose State
J20 UTEP
J22 Fresno State
J29 at TCU
F3 at Tulsa
F5 at Rice
F10 San Jose State
F12 Hawaii
F17 at Fresno State
F19 at UTEP
F26 TCU
M4 Tulsa

5. UTEP

NATIONAL RANK 133

Frontcourt: Brandon Wolfram overcame knee problems and developed into a second-team all-league player last season. Because of his good shot selection, Wolfram's field-goal percentage (.614) in league games was the WAC's best. But Wolfram needs help—only three players on the roster are 6-8 or taller. Marginal contributors Jose Escobedo and Damond Gregory and freshman Roy Smallwood need to make an impact.

Backcourt: Eggie McRae, Rico Nelson and William Smith were in the starting lineup at the end of last season and combined to average 26.6 points, 10.2 rebounds, 7.8 assists and just 5.3 turnovers. McRae was named to the league's all-defensive team, and his assists average ranks second among the WAC's returning players. Smith, a good scorer, is a surprisingly strong rebounder.

Key to success: UTEP has a deep backcourt, but a frontcourt injury could be telling. Somehow, the Miners outrebounded opponents last season despite the three-guard lineup. They will have to be just as resourceful this season and make up for a lack of size by taking good shots and playing solid defense.

Outlook: Whoever follows in the footsteps of coaching legend Don Haskins, who retired in August, may not have to reload much. Last year, the Miners posted their first winning record since 1994-95, and six of the top seven players return. Gone is Sharif Fajardo, UTEP's scoring leader in the past two seasons, but players who provided 77 percent of the scoring, 73 percent of the rebounding and 85 percent of the assists last season are back. If size doesn't matter, this team could achieve an upper-division finish and a postseason berth.

Miners DATA

Coach: To be announced.
1998-99 record: 16-12. WAC: 8-6/4th Pacific Division.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: El Paso, Texas.
Home court: Don Haskins Center (12,222).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
25	F	Jose Escobedo	6-8	Sr.	3.0	2.3	0.3	32.1	65.0	28.6
43	C	Damond Gregory	6-9	Jr.	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.00	100	00.0
21	G	Stafford Gunning	6-0	So.	0.5	0.5	0.0	33.3	0.00	00.0
20	G	Victor Luces	6-1	So.	1.6	0.7	0.8	45.7	46.7	37.5
35	G	Eggie McRae*	6-1	Sr.	8.6	2.9	4.2	38.1	73.0	34.8
50	G	Javier Mendoza	6-2	So.	1.3	0.2	0.2	60.0	83.3	50.0
24	G	Jarvis Mullahon	6-4	Sr.	8.5	2.1	1.0	39.2	76.3	38.2
11	G	Rico Nelson*	6-1	Sr.	7.0	1.0	1.1	41.7	56.0	37.9
	G	Drew Price	6-2	Fr.	Averaged 20 points a game as a senior.					
	F	Roy Smallwood	6-6	Fr.	Averaged 16 points and nine rebounds as senior.					
31	G	William Smith*	6-2	Sr.	11.0	6.3	2.4	49.1	61.7	34.4
10	G	Parker Vandivort	6-2	Jr.	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.00	55.6	00.0
30	F	Brandon Wolfram*	6-9	Jr.	12.9	6.1	1.4	60.7	74.6	00.0

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
C	Jon Bomba	6-11	1.3	3.2	0.4	32.7	36.4	0.00
F	Sharif Fajardo*	6-9	14.3	5.8	1.5	47.1	78.5	44.4

Schedule

N23 Louisiana Tech
N27 Texas Tech
D1 New Mexico
D4 at New Mexico St.
D6 Tex.-Pan American
D15 Loyola Marymount
D18 at New Mexico
D22 Cal State Northridge
D27-28 Sierra Providence SunClassic
J2 at Fla. International
J6 New Mexico State
J8 Hawaii
J15 at Fresno State
J20 at SMU
J22 at TCU
J27 Tulsa
J29 Rice
F3 at Hawaii
F5 at San Jose State
F12 Fresno State
F17 TCU
F19 SMU
F24 at Rice
F26 at Tulsa
M4 San Jose State

6. Rice

NATIONAL RANK 148

Frontcourt: The Owls depended on perimeter scoring from Bobby Crawford and Robert Johnson in recent years, but the emphasis probably will shift to the paint this season. Why? Rice can put together one of the league's tallest frontcourts, thanks to Providence transfer T.J. McKenzie (a medical redshirt last season) and Alex Bougaieff, the Owls' top returning scorer and rebounder.

Backcourt: Mike Wilks, a waterbug point guard, started 26-of-28 games as a sophomore and ranks among the league's top returnees in assists and steals. Shawn Tyndell, who shot .465 from 3-point range, will be asked to play more than the 13.4 minutes he averaged last season. Freshman Jay Christian might vault into the backcourt rotation.

Key to success: No. 1 is finding some offense. Players who provided 63 percent of the Owls' points last season are gone. Johnson, the WAC's second-leading scorer, and Jason Skaer led Rice in scoring in 25-of-28 games. Also, Rice must learn to win at venues other than Autry Court. The Owls were 13-1 at home last season, 2-7 on the road and 3-2 on neutral courts. One more league road victory would have allowed the Owls to share the Mountain Division title.

Outlook: Willis Wilson was the Mountain Division's coach of the year last season, engineering the third-best turnaround (six wins to 18) in Division I. With only four scholarship lettermen returning, Wilson will need to show his coaching acumen again if the Owls are to avoid the bottom half of the standings. The coach could use LSU transfer Omar Mance, but Mance must sit out the 1999-2000 season.

Owls DATA

Coach: Willis Wilson (98-98, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 18-10. WAC: 8-6/3rd/Mountain Division.
Last league title: 1970 (Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Houston.
Home court: Autry Court (5,000).

*- 1998-99 starter

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	C	Alex Bougaieff	6-11	Sr.	8.3	7.6	1.6	51.6	61.1	20.0
15	F	Jay Christian	6-5	Fr.	All-Stater, averaged 25.6 points and 15 boards.					
33	F	Erik Cooper	6-6	Jr.	6.9	3.7	0.9	54.4	73.6	42.9
25	F	Kevin Craig	6-6	Fr.	Solid from the field, hitting 52 percent of shots.					
4	C/F	Brandon Evans	6-9	Fr.	Considered one of the top post players in Texas.					
0	G	Omar Mance	6-2	So.	Transferred from LSU.					
12	G	John Matthews	6-2	Sr.	Four-year walk-on who has played 12 games.					
5	C	T.J. McKenzie	6-11	So.	Transferred from Providence.					
32	C	Ferron Morgan	6-10	Fr.	Redshirted with injury in 1998-99.					
3	G/F	Adam Robinson	6-5	Fr.	Houston's 3-point champion in high school.					
31	G/F	Nick Robinson	6-5	Fr.	Averaged 18.5 points and nine rebounds.					
22	G	Shawn Tyndell	6-5	Jr.	3.2	1.5	0.8	40.6	53.8	46.5
11	G	Michael Walton	6-0	Fr.	Scored 1,295 career points in prep career.					
34	G	Mike Wilks*	5-10	Jr.	8.2	4.4	4.1	39.1	68.8	27.6

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	T.J. Armstrong*	6-5	5.0	2.0	1.3	40.4	70.0	28.9
G	Keenan Holmes	6-3	1.6	0.8	1.0	22.2	50.0	00.0
F	Robert Johnson*	6-4	22.0	4.3	2.1	43.4	72.7	36.1
F	Derek Michaelis*	6-8	Will concentrate on baseball.					
F	Jason Skaer*	6-7	9.3	5.1	1.2	39.8	42.9	35.5
C	Hugh Thomson	6-10	0.4	0.3	0.0	00.0	75.0	—

Schedule

N19 Navy
N22 Loyola (La.)
N27 at Portland
D2 Northwestern State
D4 at Stephen F. Austin
D7 at Houston
D11 at Texas A&M
D20 Rockhurst College
D22 Lamar
D28 at Duquesne
J3 at Texas-Pan Am.
J8 at SMU
J15 Tulsa
J20 Hawaii
J22 San Jose State
J27 at Fresno State
J29 at UTEP
F3 TCU
F5 SMU
F9 at Northwestern
F12 at Tulsa
F17 at San Jose State
F19 at Hawaii
F24 UTEP
F26 Fresno State
M4 at TCU

7. San Jose State

NATIONAL RANK 218

Frontcourt: Eric Griffin, who averaged 16.3 minutes last season, is the only returning player up front. He will be surrounded by junior-college transfers during the 1999-2000 season, most notably Kevin Blunt and Darnell Williams, who played alongside heralded Schea Cotton (Alabama-bound) at Long Beach City College. Lawrence Felder brings much-needed size.

Backcourt: Swingman Cory Powell is the most highly regarded member of San Jose State's recruiting class. Originally headed for Cincinnati, he wound up at Independence (Kan.) Community College and once was ranked by THE SPORTING NEWS as one of the best small forward prospects among junior-college players. Another Powell, R.J., was the Spartans' point guard and best defensive player last season. The only other returning guard is Ben Sanders, who was effective off the bench. Freshman Brett Lilly and junior-college import Rashaad Hines are among newcomers who will get a look.

Key to success: The Spartans took a step forward in Phil Johnson's rookie season, but it will be difficult to maintain momentum with all the new players on the roster. Now with Johnson gone—replaced by Steve Barnes in August—the need to concoct some chemistry in a hurry is even more vital.

Outlook: Barnes has a rough road ahead. Before Barnes arrived, Terrance Richmond, the team's leading scorer, had quit the team and two scholarship players transferred. That leaves Barnes with three returning lettermen and makes San Jose State the WAC's mystery team. Until he samples his smorgasbord of new players, Barnes won't know just how good—or bad—the Spartans will be.

Spartans DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Steve Barnes (first year).
1998-99 record: 12-16. WAC: 5-9/6th Pacific Division.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: San Jose, Calif.
Home court: The Event Center (5,000).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
	F	Kevin Blunt	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Long Beach CC.					
21	G	David Egans	6-4	So.	Transferred from Long Beach State.					
	C	Lawrence Felder	6-10	Jr.	Transferred from Fullerton CC.					
44	F	Eric Griffin	6-8	Sr.	4.4	2.9	0.5	45.1	58.7	00.0
	G	Rashaad Hines	5-10	Jr.	Transferred from North Idaho College.					
	F	Billy Landram	6-7	Jr.	Transferred from Olympic CC.					
	F	Brett Lilly	6-5	Fr.	Expected to contribute.					
	G/F	Elliott Marshall	6-4	Jr.	Transferred from Merritt College.					
	G/F	Cory Powell	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from Independence CC.					
22	G	R.J. Powell*	6-0	Sr.	6.6	2.8	3.8	44.3	61.4	40.6
4	G	Ben Sanders	6-4	Sr.	11.3	3.0	3.7	47.6	62.0	33.3
	F	Darnell Williams	6-8	Jr.	Transferred from Long Beach CC.					

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
F	Brad Kennett	6-6	Transferred to University of Sioux Falls.					
C	Maik Mertens	7-1	Transferred to University of Sioux Falls.					
G/F	Shawn McCullough	6-3	3.1	2.4	0.8	37.7	72.7	23.8
F	Shaun Murray*	6-9	8.3	3.8	0.4	50.6	67.1	00.0
G	Junior Preston	6-1	2.0	1.6	0.1	33.3	00.0	44.4
G	Michael Quinney*	5-10	10.5	2.5	3.9	37.8	62.1	37.0
G/F	Terrance Richmond*	6-2	Top scorer who quit team.					
C	Will Trawick*	6-7	10.5	8.2	0.8	51.1	62.1	00.0

Schedule

N20 San Francisco State
N24 UC-Santa Barbara
N27 at Northern Arizona
D1 at Santa Clara
D4 at Portland
D8 at California
D11 at Cal State Fullerton
D13 Menlo College
D18 Saint Mary's
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Cl.
D30 at Cal St.Northridge
J3 Coll. of Notre Dame
J8 Brown
J13 TCU
J15 SMU
J20 at Tulsa
J22 at Rice
J29 at Hawaii
F3 Fresno State
F5 UTEP
F10 at SMU
F12 at TCU
F17 Rice
F19 Tulsa
F26 Hawaii
M1 at Fresno State
M4 at UTEP

8. Hawaii

NATIONAL RANK 241

Frontcourt: Marquette Alexander played out of position (center) last season but managed to lead Hawaii in scoring and was second in rebounding. He probably would be an all-league candidate if he played on a better team. Alexander probably will move to his more natural position of forward this season because 7-foot junior-college signee Todd Fields, who began his career at Baylor, is expected to start in the middle. Small forward Philipp Czernin, who started 18 games last season, decided to leave. UAB transfer Pedrag Savovic and two JC imports, Lane O'Connor and Troy Ostler, will provide an infusion of talent.

Backcourt: Johnny White, the starter at the point, returns. Though he is the WAC's top returning assist man, White had too many turnovers last season. A better supporting cast should make him a better player. That cast will include junior-college standout Nerijus Puida and returnees Geremy Robinson and Mike McIntyre.

Key to success: Because of a roster makeover, the Rainbows will need time to develop chemistry. Even if they mesh, other problems need addressing—including a feeble offense. After averaging a league-low 63.8 points last season, Hawaii needs considerable firepower from its newcomers.

Outlook: Hawaii is coming off its worst record in 12 seasons and has more new players than familiar faces. Coach Riley Wallace's team figures to win more than six games this time, though, and might even steal a road victory—the Rainbows were winless on the mainland last season—but a return to the upper division is unlikely.

Rainbows DATA

**- 1998-99 starter*

Coach: Riley Wallace (182-172, 12 years; 197-199 overall, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 6-20. WAC: 3-11/7th Pacific Division.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Honolulu.
Home court: Stan Sheriff Center (10,300).

No.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Cl.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
44	F/C	Marquette Alexander*	6-8	Sr.	13.4	5.2	1.1	53.7	76.2	00.0
10	G	Roy De La Cruz	6-0	Jr.	Transferred from San Jacinto College.					
34	C	Todd Fields	7-0	Jr.	Transferred from St. Catharine's College.					
4	F	Bernard McIntosh	6-8	Jr.	Transferred from Northland Pioneer College.					
3	G	Mike McIntyre	6-3	So.	4.2	0.8	0.8	37.6	70.8	35.9
33	F	Lane O'Connor	6-6	Jr.	Transferred from Santa Rosa CC.					
32	F	Troy Ostler	6-9	Jr.	Transferred from Salt Lake City CC.					
22	G/F	Nerijus Puida	6-5	Jr.	Transferred from Weatherford College.					
30	G	Geremy Robinson	6-2	Sr.	4.8	1.5	0.5	43.4	56.7	44.0
42	G/F	Pedrag Savovic	6-5	So.	Redshirted 1998-99 season.					
11	G	Johnny White*	6-0	Sr.	8.7	2.2	5.5	45.2	55.8	30.2

LOSSES

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Ppg	Rpg	Apg	FG%	FT%	3PTFG%
G	Mike Robinson*	6-8	11.7	6.5	1.4	39.8	73.5	32.4
F	Philipp Czernin*	6-6	Left school.					
F	Casey Cartwright*	6-6	9.2	2.1	1.5	44.0	76.7	34.4
F	Erin Galloway	6-8	5.5	3.8	0.7	52.7	68.6	—
G	Gary Gillman	6-3	1.4	1.1	1.0	47.1	58.3	00.0
C	Bryan Moeller	7-0	2.8	2.0	0.0	62.5	52.6	—

Schedule

N19-21 VoiceStream Wireless Challenge
N26-28 United Airlines Tip-off Tournament
D4-5 PowerBar Invitational
D8 at USC
D20-22 Nike Festival
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J8 at UTEP
J13 SMU
J15 TCU
J20 at Rice
J22 at Tulsa
J29 San Jose State
F3 UTEP
F5 Fresno State
F10 at TCU
F12 at SMU
F17 Tulsa
F19 Rice
F26 at San Jose State
M4 at Fresno State

America East

By Michael Bradley
Freelance writer based in Philadelphia

RANK 16

1 DELAWARE
National Rank: 45

Coach: Mike Brey (75-44, 4 seasons; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 25-6. America East: 15-3/1st. Lost to Tennessee in NCAA East 1st round.
Starters lost: Tyrone Perry, G (8.6 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 3.0 apg; 40.7 FG%); John Bennett, C (7.1 ppg; 8.4 rpg; 0.9 apg; 65.4 FG%).
Others lost: Fred Gonzalez, F (0.8 ppg; 0.6 rpg; 0.1 apg; 30.8 FG%); Mohamed Niang, C (0.8 ppg; 0.3 rpg; 0 apg; 60.0 FG%); Tobias Mullen, G (0.4 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0 apg; 15.4 FG%).
Starters returning: Mike Pegues, F (21.8 ppg; 7.2 rpg; 2.7 apg; 49.5 FG%); John Gordon, G (15.6 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 3.6 apg; 46.3 FG%); Greg Miller, G (6.0 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 1.4 apg; 38.5 FG%).
Other returnees: Kestutis Marciulionis, G (12.0 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 2.0 apg; 46.2 FG%); Madou Diouf, F (4.5 ppg; 4.9 rpg; 0.8 apg; 49.5 FG%); Ndongo Ndiaye, C (2.6 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 0.3 apg; 42.2 FG%).
Top newcomers: Dave Hindenlang, F, 6-8/Fr.; Austen Rowland, G, 6-1/Fr.; Billy Wells, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer, Tulane).
Outlook: Delaware has made significant strides under Brey and appears ready to do more than just handle the America East. The Blue Hens are the league's most athletic team. Pegues is the league's best player and a point machine who hits the glass. Marciulionis is a dangerous long-range weapon, and Hindenlang could provide much-needed frontcourt beef.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Newark, Del. **Home court:** Bob Carpenter Center (5,000).

2 HOFSTRA
National Rank: 79

Coach: Jay Wright (72-73, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 22-10. America East: 14-4/3rd. Lost to Rutgers in NIT 1st round.
Starters lost: Duane Posey, C (8.3 ppg; 6.3 rpg; 0.3 apg; 45.0 FG%).
Others lost: Tim Beckett, F (4.6 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 0.6 apg; 36.9 FG%); Anthony Davis, G (2.5 ppg; 0.4 rpg; 0.2 apg; 33.9 FG%); Mike Renfro, G (4.0 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.3 apg; 32.1 FG%).
Starters returning: Craig Claxton, G (13.3 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 5.3 apg; 48.2 FG%); Roberto Gittens, F (10.4 ppg; 6.4 rpg; 0.9 apg; 49.6 FG%); Jason Hernandez, G (9.9 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 2.9 apg; 48.2 FG%); Norman Richardson, F (13.9 ppg; 5.2 rpg; 1.8 apg; 41.1 FG%)
Other returnees: Jeff Fox, G (0.1 ppg; 0.1 rpg; 0 apg; 0 FG%); Marc Petit, C (2.5 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 0.2 apg; 45.6 FG%); Abdou Sylla, C (1.8 ppg; 3.0 rpg; 0.2 apg; 34.2 FG%); Mike Feeley, F, 6-6/So. (RS).
Top newcomers: Rick Apodaca, G, 6-3/Fr.; Lars Grubler, C, 7-0/Fr.; Danny Walker, F, 6-6/Fr.; Greg Springfield, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer, Western Kentucky).
Outlook: Hofstra moves into a new, 5,000-seat on-campus arena this winter and would like to christen it with a title. That could happen, but the frontcourt needs some fortifications. Claxton, Richardson and Hernandez are first-rate, and Gittens has star potential. Find some depth, and the Blue Hens may have a problem staying on top. The Flying Dutchmen have the league's best backcourt.
Last league title: 1992 (East Coast).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Hempstead, N.Y. **Home court:** Physical Fitness Center (2,500).

3 DREXEL
National Rank: 153

Coach: Steve Seymour (first year).
1998-99 record: 20-9. America East: 15-3/2nd.
Starters lost: Mike DeRocckis, G (13.4 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 2.8 apg; 37.2 FG%).
Others lost: Greg Gaffney, G (1.1 ppg; 1.1 rpg; 1.5 apg; 34.6 FG%); Ross Neisler, G (4.6 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 1.4 apg; 40.2 FG%); Brahin Riley, F (0.8 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 1.2 apg; 31.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Bryant Coursey, G (9.3 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 4.6 apg; 47.6 FG%): Mike Kouser, F (12.8 ppg; 8.1 rpg; 1.6 apg; 43.5 FG%); Joe Linderman, C (17.2 ppg; 7.6 rpg; 1.2 apg; 56.9 FG%); Petrick Sanders, F (8.6 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 0.8 apg; 43.3 FG%).
Other returnees: Tom Dearborn, G (2.4 ppg; 0.4 rpg; 0.6 apg; 35.1 FG%); Julius Williams, G (2.9 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 0.4 apg; 38.5 FG%); Stephen Starks, G (1.6 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.1 apg; 38.9 FG%); Chris Burch, F (1.7 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 0.2 apg; 34.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Henry Fairfax, G, 6-4/Fr.; Ashley Howard, G, 6-0/Fr.; Tim Whitworth, G, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: Seymour replaces Bill Herrion, now at East Carolina, and must keep alive the school's winning tradition. He has some weapons at his disposal, but Drexel needs immediate perimeter help from the newcomers. Linderman has few peers on the inside and could well become a 20-10 man, particularly if he improves his free-throw shooting.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** Physical Education Athletic Center (2,300).

4 MAINE
National Rank: 158

Coach: John Giannini (37-49, 3 years; 205-87, 10 years).
1998-99 record: 19-9. America East: 13-5/4th.
Starters lost: Allen Ledbetter, F (10.3 ppg; 8.1 rpg; 0.9 apg; 55.6 FG%); Fred Meeks, G (10.0 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 1.5 apg; 39.7 FG%); Marcus Wills, G (10.6 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 2.4 apg; 43.7 FG%).
Others lost: Dade Faison, G (1.1 ppg; 0.7 rpg; 1.1 apg; 28.6 FG%); Jeremy Thombs, G (0 ppg; 0.4 rpg; 0 apg; 0 FG%)); Linnell Marshall, F (1.5 ppg; 1.1 rpg; 0.1 apg; 46.7 FG%).
Starters returning: Andy Bedard, G (16.9 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 6.4 apg; 44.7 FG%); Nate Fox, F (18.2 ppg; 8.1 rpg; 1.4 apg; 57.5 FG%).
Other returnees: Jamar Croom, F (0.9 ppg; 0.8 rpg; 0 apg; 33.3 FG%); Huggy Dye, G (9.7 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 1.7 apg; 44.9 FG%); Colin Haynes, F (3.6 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 0.8 apg; 47.1 FG%); Corey Thibodeau, G (2.1 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0 apg; 45.8 FG%); Todd Tibbetts, F, 6-6/So. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Derrick Jackson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Andre Riley, F, 6-8/Fr.; Tommy Waterman, G, 5-10/Fr. (RS); Errick Greene, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Carvell Ammons, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer, Illinois); Julian Dunkley, F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer, Temple).
Outlook: The Bears have made great strides during Giannini's three seasons, and Bedard and Fox give them hope for more progress. But the defense and rebounding must be improved if Maine wants more than just a first-division finish. With the inside-outside tandem of Fox and Bedard still in place, the Bears will be dangerous for any foe. Bedard needs only to make a minor improvement in his shooting eye to become a 20-point scorer.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Orono, Maine. **Home court:** Alfond Arena (5,712).

5 VERMONT
National Rank: 177

Coach: Tom Brennan (147-211, 13 years; 199-286, 18 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. America East: 7-11/6th.
Starters lost: Jared Steele, F (7.7 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 1.1 apg; 41.2 FG%); Matt Chotkowski, C (7.0 ppg; 5.3 rpg; 1.3 apg; 43.1 FG%).
Others lost: Tyler Murphy, G (6.6 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 1.3 apg; 37.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Tony Orciari, G (15.6 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 2.3 apg; 37.3 FG%); David Roach, G (6.9 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 3.1 apg; 32.3 FG%); Tobe Carberry, G (13.5 ppg; 5.8 rpg; 2.1 apg; 37.7 FG%).
Other returnees: Trevor Gaines, F (4.9 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 0.7 apg; 44.4 FG%); Corry McLaughlin, F (3.9 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 0.7 apg; 56.4 FG%); Brian Nemitz, G (1.2 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.4 apg; 24.2 FG%); Craig Peper, F, 6-8/Sr. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Andre Anderson, G, 6-1/Fr.; Grant Anderson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Scott Jones, F, 6-9/Fr.; Matt Sheftic, F, 6-8/Fr.; Corey Sullivan, G, 6-6/Fr.; Ryan Driggers, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: This team needs to become more unselfish to have any hope of challenging for the league crown. The backcourt of Orciari, Carberry and distributor Roach is a great starting point. Both Orciari and Carberry have the ability to score inside and out, even if their shot selection isn't always the best. The return of Peper, who missed last year with a knee injury, will be a big boost. But he needs help.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Burlington, Vt. **Home court:** Patrick Gym (3,228).

Predictions

1. Delaware	6. Hartford
2. Hofstra	7. Northeastern
3. Drexel	8. Towson
4. Maine	9. Boston University
5. Vermont	10. New Hampshire

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Craig Claxton, Hofstra	5-10	180	Sr.
G	John Gordon, Delaware	5-10	170	Sr.
G	Andy Bedard, Maine	6-1	190	Sr.
F	Joe Linderman, Drexel	6-9	230	Sr.
F	Mike Pegues, Delaware	6-5	240	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Marcus Blossom, Northeastern	6-2	180	Jr.
G	Tony Orciari, Vermont	6-3	185	So.
F	Nate Fox, Maine	6-8	240	Sr.
F	Darryl Presley, Delaware	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Mike Kouser, Drexel	6-7	225	Jr.

Player of the Year

Mike Pegues, F, Delaware

Newcomer of the Year

Julian Dunkley, C, Maine

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Andy Bedard, Maine
Best rebounder: Mike Kouser, Drexel
Best playmaker: Andy Bedard, Maine
Best defender: Craig Claxton, Hofstra
Best leaper: Tobe Carberry, Vermont
Most versatile: Andy Bedard, Maine
Most flamboyant: Craig Claxton, Hofstra
Best NBA prospect: Mike Pegues, Delaware

6 HARTFORD
National Rank: 216

Coach: Paul Brazeau (90-103, seven years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. America East: 9-9/5th.
Starters lost (2): Justin Bailey, G (20.1 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 2.2 apg; 43.9 FG%); Chris Eames, F (9.6 ppg; 5.2 rpg; 0.8 apg; 56.1 FG%).
Others lost: Jaron Brown, G (2.5 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.6 apg; 26.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Darrick Jackson, G (8.6 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 2.3 apg; 36.6 FG%); Riyad King, G (2.2 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 2.4 apg; 40.7 FG%); Rob Sawicki, F (10.4 ppg; 6.5 rpg; 0.7 apg; 47.0 FG%).
Other returnees: Rob Doss, F (1.9 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 0 apg; 40.0 FG%); Todd Jones, F (0.8 ppg; 0.9 rpg; 0 apg; 40.0 FG%); Keyon Smith, G (7.2 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 0.8 apg; 44.8 FG%); Mantas Storpirstis, G (4.7 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 1.0 apg; 36.7 FG%).
Top newcomers: Bryan Evans, G, 6-0/Fr.; Pierre Johnson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Wayne McClinton, G, 6-2/Fr.; Josh Odugbela, F, 6-8/Fr.; Garvin Gordon, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Hartford has a few weapons in the backcourt and can expect Sawicki to improve. But the key is the recruiting class, which must produce three or four standout performers, or the future will be bleak. Sawicki demonstrated the skill to score and rebound but still needs to add more weight to his 6-10, 218-pound frame. King is a solid distributor, and backcourt men Jackson and Smith could mature into double-figure threats.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: West Hartford, Conn. **Home court:** Chase Family Arena (4,475).

7 NORTHEASTERN
National Rank: 224

Coach: Rudy Keeling (31-52, 3 years; 137-174, 11 years).
1998-99 record: 10-18. America East: 6-12/7th.
Starters lost: Harold Miller, G (13.2 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 2.7 apg; 45.3 FG%); Lin Lattimore, F (9.1 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 0.7 apg; 47.9 FG%).
Others lost: John Green, C (1.5 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 0.2 apg; 36.6 FG%); Michael Rainey, F (0.8 ppg; 0.3 rpg; 0.2 apg; 36.4 FG%).
Starters returning: Changa Adams, C (5.3 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 1.4 apg; 49.2 FG%); Marcus Blossom, G (16.3 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 2.3 apg; 44.5 FG%); Terry Kringe, G (8.1 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 2.3 apg; 42.6 FG%).
Other returnees: Jean Bain, G (9.9 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 2.1 apg; 43.3 FG%); Cortez Bond, F (3.9 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 0.4 apg; 39.0 FG%); Geoff Gross, G (0.1 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0 apg; 0 F%); Kareen Harris, G (3.0 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 0.4 apg; 35.7 FG%); Tim West, F (1.4 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 0.2 apg; 45.8 FG%); Marquis Wright, F (2.5 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 0.3 apg; 53.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: John Alexander, G, 5-9/Fr.; Toby Brittan, G, 6-4/Fr.; Gokboru Aygar, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Dwayne Barnes, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Terrence Shannon, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Huskies must hope their cache of junior-college transfers can contribute big things right away. Blossom is a keeper, but he's not enough. Maybe Bain can mature into a second offensive option, but he isn't going to rebound or help with defense on the inside. Unless those problems are solved, the Huskies will remain a long way from the top.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Cabot Gym (2,500).

8 TOWSON
National Rank: 276

Coach: Mike Jaskulski (13-43, 2 years; 76-90, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 6-22. America East: 4-14/9th.
Starters lost: Alphonso Hawes, C (7.1 ppg; 6.8 rpg; 0.4 apg; 47.6 FG%).
Others lost: Ryan Hannon, F (0.3 ppg; 0 rpg; 0 apg; 100 FG%).
Starters returning: Brian Barber, F (12.3 ppg; 4.9 rpg; 0.6 apg; 48.9 FG%); Josh Davalli, F (7.3 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 1.5 apg; 42.0 FG%); Raul de Pablo, G (5.8 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 1.4 apg; 31.7 FG%); Marlin Wise, G (6.6 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 5.2 apg; 37.8 FG%).
Other returnees: Pete Mauro, G (11.0 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 1.6 apg; 37.4 FG%); Kerry Augustus, F (0.5 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0.3 apg; 30.8 FG%); Damon Cason, G (3.4 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 2.8 apg; 37.1 FG%); Shaun Holtz, C (4.3 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 1.4 apg; 31.2 FG%); Guy Zenou, F (5.2 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 0.7 apg; 45.2 FG%); Torih Ragih, F, 6-5/Sr. (RS).
Top newcomers: Mike Shin, C, 6-7/So. (transfer, Pittsburgh).
Outlook: This year's forecast doesn't feature much improvement. The Tigers are small, and though they have some experience, it's a good bet many of the players are trying to forget the past couple of seasons. Barber is a good starting point. He receives some perimeter help from Mauro, while swingman Ragih is expected to be a contributor from the wing.
Last league title: 1991 (East Coast).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Towson, Md. **Home court:** Towson Center (5,000).

9 BOSTON UNIVERSITY
National Rank: 277

Coach: Dennis Wolff (86-61, 5 years; 116-79, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 116-79. America East: 5-13/8th.
Starters lost: LeVar Folk, G (12.7 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 5.2 apg; 41.9 FG%); Billy Beal, G (9.3 ppg; 1.5 rpg; 1.8 apg; 31.9 FG%); Walter Brown, F (11.5 ppg; 7.0 rpg; 0.8 apg; 44.5 FG%).
Others lost: Matt Curley, F (4.4 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 1.4 apg; 40.8 FG%); Ken Michin, F (3.4 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 0.1 apg; 33.9 FG%).
Starters returning: Dereck Franklin, G (7.4 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 2.6 apg; 38.4 FG%); Jean Avebe, F (7.5 ppg; 4.9 rpg; 0.2 apg; 53.8 FG%).
Other returnees: Mike Costello, G (7.8 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 1.9 apg; 36.6 FG%); Ignacio Rodriguez, F (4.7 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 0.3 apg; 50.0 FG%); Jerome Graham, F (1.3 ppg; 1.2 rpg; 0.1 apg; 35.0 FG%); Marshall Crane, G (0.8 ppg; 0.3 rpg; 0.5 apg; 25.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: John Sadusky, G, 6-0/Fr.; Paul Seymour, F, 6-6/Fr.; Matt Turner, G, 5-9/Fr.; Jason Grochowalski, G, 6-6/Fr.; Jacob Kudlacz, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: The Terriers must build for the future, hoping this year's newcomers can team with Franklin and Rodriguez to form a nucleus that can win down the line. The backcourt tandem of Costello and Franklin is steady, and Costello is a threat from long range. Avebe is productive close to the basket, and Rodriguez showed signs he could become an interior force. The recruiting class brings some more promising prospects, including high-scoring guard Turner and productive forward Kudlacz. But there isn't a proven first option on the roster.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Case Gym (1,800).

10 NEW HAMPSHIRE
National Rank: 285

Coach: Phil Rowe (first year; 180-149, 13 years).
1998-99 record: 4-23. America East: 2-16/10th.
Starters lost (4): Will Chavis, G (9.6 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 3.9 apg; 37.7 FG%); Carmen Maciariello, G (11.0 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 2.2 apg; 34.3 FG%); Andy Cavo, G (11.3 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 1.9 apg; 39.3 FG%); Ethan Cole, F (12.0 ppg; 7.5 rpg; 1.2 apg; 43.3 FG%).
Others lost: Drew Dawson, G (2.6 ppg; 1.1 rpg; 1.1 apg; 29.8 FG%); Mike Boyd, F (3.2 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 0.2 apg; 45.1 FG%).
Starters returning: Rob Marquardt, C (4.6 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 0.8 apg; 44.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Jeff Senulis, F (5.9 ppg; 3.0 rpg; 0.3 apg; 42.6 FG%); Austin Ganly, G (3.0 ppg; 1.1 rpg; 0.6 apg; 40.9 FG%); Assane Faye, F (2.3 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.3 apg; 51.3 FG%); Colin Donahue, G (0.6 ppg; 0.6 rpg; 0.8 apg; 12.5 FG%).
Top newcomers: Mark Yeaton, G, 6-2/Fr.; Marcelle Williams, G, 5-10/Fr.
Outlook: Rowe may have had some success on the Division II and III levels, but he's jumping into a tough situation here. For now, fans will have to hope for a miracle just to escape last place. Senulis and Marquardt should be pretty strong on the boards and defensively. The Wildcats lack proven outside shooting. They turned the ball over way too often and offered little resistance on defense.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Durham, N.H. **Home court:** Whittemore Center (7,100).

America East Schedules

Boston
N19-20 Fla. Intrn. Tourn.
N22 at James Madison
N30 at Providence
D7 Harvard
D9 Maine
D11 New Hampshire
D14 at Massachusetts
D28-29 Golden Bear Classic
J2 at Hofstra
J4 at Drexel
J8 Northeastern
J11 Liberty
J16 Towson
J20 at Hartford
J22 at Vermont
J28 Drexel
J30 Hofstra
F5 at Northeastern
F10 at Towson
F12 at Delaware
F17 Vermont
F19 Hartford
F24 at New Hampshire
F26 at Maine

Delaware
N20-21 Binghamton Tourn.
N23 George Mason
N27 American
N29 at Rider
D2 Colgate
D4 at Delaware State
D11 Vermont
D21 Howard
D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J2 at Maine
J4 at New Hampshire
J9 Hofstra
J11 Drexel
J14 at Boston
J16 at Northeastern
J22 Towson
J27 New Hampshire
J29 Maine
F3 at Drexel
F5 at Hofstra
F10 Boston
F12 Northeastern
F14 Hartford
F19 at Towson
F24 at Vermont
F26 at Hartford

Drexel
N27 at Seton Hall
N30 at Monmouth
D4 Fairleigh Dickinson
D11 Md.-Balt. County
D12 Morgan St.
D14 at Hofstra
D18 La Salle
D21 at George Mason
D29-30 Wisc.-GB Tourn.
J2 Northeastern
J4 Boston
J8 at Towson
J11 at Delaware
J14 Hartford
J16 Vermont
J21 at New Hampshire
J23 at Maine
J28 at Boston
J30 at Northeastern
F3 Delaware
F5 Towson
F10 at Vermont
F12 at Hartford
F18 Maine
F20 New Hampshire
F26 Hofstra

Hartford
N19 at Sacred Heart
N22 at Siena
N29 at Boston College
D2-3 Phoenix Classic
D9 at Towson
D11 at Miami
D29 at Syracuse
J4 at Vermont
J8 Maine
J10 New Hampshire
J14 at Drexel
J16 at Hofstra
J21 Boston
J23 Northeastern
J26 Holy Cross
J29 at Vermont
J31 Harvard
F3 at New Hampshire
F5 at Maine
F10 Hofstra
F12 Drexel
F14 at Delaware
F17 at Northeastern
F19 at Boston
F24 Towson
F26 Delaware

Hofstra
N16-26 Preseason NIT
N27 at Stony Brook
N29 at California
D4 at Belmont
D7 at Vanderbilt
D14 Drexel
D19 Iona
D22 at St. John's
D27-28 ECAC Holiday
J2 Boston
J4 Northeastern
J9 at Delaware
J11 Towson
J14 Vermont
J16 Hartford
J21 at Maine
J23 at New Hampshire
J28 at Northeastern
J30 at Boston
F3 Towson
F5 Delaware
F10 at Hartford
F12 at Vermont
F18 New Hampshire
F20 Maine
F26 at Drexel

Maine
N19-20 Pepsi-Marist Tr.
N28 Brown
D4 at Sacred Heart
D6 Troy State
D9 at Boston
D11 at Minnesota
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Cl.
D29-30 Stony Brook Tr.
J2 Delaware
J4 Towson
J8 at Hartford
J10 at Vermont
J15 New Hampshire
J21 Hofstra
J23 Drexel
J27 at Towson
J29 at Delaware
F3 Vermont
F5 Hartford
F7 at Northeastern
F11 at New Hampshire
F18 at Drexel
F20 at Hofstra
F24 Northeastern
F26 Boston

New Hampshire
N20 at Boston College
N23 Buffalo
N26 Dartmouth
N29 at Florida
D4 at Brown
D6 at Northeastern
D11 at Boston
D18 at Central Conn.
D29-30 Stanford Invit.
J2 Towson
J4 Delaware
J7 at Vermont
J10 at Hartford
J15 at Maine
J21 Drexel
J23 Hofstra
J27 at Delaware
J29 at Towson
F3 Hartford
F5 Vermont
F11 Maine
F15 Holy Cross
F18 at Hofstra
F20 at Drexel
F24 Boston
F26 Northeastern

Northeastern
N19 at St. Bonaventure
N23 at Duquesne
N27 at UNC Greensboro
D2 Navy
D6 New Hampshire
D8 St. Peter's
D11 Maine
D18 at Harvard
D22 at Holy Cross
D28 at Illinois State
J2 at Drexel
J4 at Hofstra
J8 at Boston
J14 Towson
J16 Delaware
J20 at Vermont
J22 at Hartford
J25 Brown
J28 Hofstra
J30 Drexel
F5 Boston
F10 at Towson
F12 at Delaware
F17 Hartford
F19 Vermont
F24 at Maine
F26 at New Hampshire

Towson
N19-20 Battle of Balt.
N23 at Morgan State
N30 Long Island
D2 at Liberty
D6 at Lafayette
D9 Hartford
D18 UMBC
D28 at Michigan
J2 at New Hampshire
J4 at Maine
J8 Drexel
J11 Hofstra
J14 at Northeastern
J16 at Boston
J18 Vermont
J22 at Delaware
J27 Maine
J29 New Hampshire
F4 at Hofstra
F6 at Drexel
F10 Northeastern
F12 Boston
F19 Delaware
F21 James Madison
F24 at Hartford
F26 at Vermont

Vermont
N19 at Connecticut
N21 at Yale
N23 at Boston College
N29 at Ohio State
D2 at Univ. at Albany
D4 Lehigh
D11 at Delaware
D19 at Holy Cross
J2 Harvard
J4 at Hartford
J8 New Hampshire
J10 Maine
J14 at Hofstra
J16 at Drexel
J18 at Towson
J21 Northeastern
J23 Boston
J26 at Dartmouth
J29 Hartford
F3 at Maine
F5 at New Hampshire
F10 Hofstra
F12 Drexel
F17 at Boston
F19 at Northeastern
F24 Delaware
F26 Towson

Big West

RANK 15

WEST DIVISION

1 LONG BEACH STATE
National Rank: 56

Coach: Wayne Morgan (36-48, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 13-15. Big West Western Division: 9-7/T2nd.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Ian Milley, C (1.1 ppg; 0.8 rpg; 0.04 apg; 0.08 bpg; 33.3 FG%); Allan Gomez, G (1.2 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0.15 apg; 0.0 bpg; 33.3 FG%).
Starters returning: D'Cean Bryant, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.5 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 1.4 apg; 0.4 bpg; 39.6 FG%); Antrone Lee, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (6.8 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 1.5 apg; 1.25 bpg; 41.5 FG%); Ramel Lloyd, G, 6-4/Jr. (18.0 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 1.8 apg; 0.07 bpg; 45.2 FG%); Mate Milisa, F/C, 6-11/Sr. (13.9 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 1.65 apg; 0.4 bpg; 50.0 FG%); Charles O'Neal, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.2 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 3.6 apg; 0.0 bpg; 41.6 FG%).
Other returnees: Ron Johnson, G, 6-1/So. (3.3 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 1.35 apg; 0.07 bpg; 40.0 FG%); Richie Smalls, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.5 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 1.3 apg; 0.96 bpg; 45.3 FG%); Grant Stone, F, 6-8/Jr. (3.5 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 0.26 apg; 0.08 bpg; 45.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: James Wright, G, 6-1/Fr.; Keith Felton, G, 5-10/Jr.; Cesar Sanchez, F, 6-5/Jr.; Rudy Williams, F, 6-9/Jr.
Outlook: Again, the 49ers are loaded with talent. Again, it is to be seen what will become of it. Morgan barely survived the axe after a third consecutive losing season. Having everyone back, plus having two years left on his contract, kept Morgan employed. This season, he must produce and has the players to get it done. Lloyd may be the conference's best. At 6-4, he can take smaller guards inside and has a light enough shooting touch to put more pressure on opposing defenses. Milisa fits nicely with Lloyd's style. He is not a classic post player and is dangerous on the perimeter. The 49ers were definitely better once point guard O'Neal became eligible at midseason. He had a team-high 58 assists in 16 games. Lee might be the conference's best defensive player and can play both guard positions, as well as small forward. Bryant is another versatile player who can play both forward spots, making the 49ers difficult to match up against.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Long Beach, Calif. **Home court:** The Pyramid (5,000).

2 UC-SANTA BARBARA
National Rank: 111

Coach: Bob Williams (15-13, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 15-13. Big West Western Division: 12-4/1st.
Starters lost: B.J. Bunton, F (17.5 ppg; 6.8 rpg; 1.1 apg; 0.46 bpg; 56.6 FG%); Josh Merrill, F (13.5 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 1.25 apg; 0.1 bpg; 45.2 FG%).
Others lost: Matt Blakely, G/F (2.5 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 1.18 apg; 0.0 bpg; 53.1 FG%); Chris Lynch, F (4.4 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 0.6 apg; 0.18 bpg; 46.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Derrick Allen, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.7 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 4.2 apg; 0.1 bpg; 46.7 FG%); Erick Ashe, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.6 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 2.6 apg; 0.1 bpg; 38.8 FG%); Larry Bell, G, 6-2/Sr. (3.6 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 4.3 apg; 0.14 bpg; 41.7 FG%).
Other returnees: Brendan Payton, G, 6-0/Jr. (9.1 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.03 bpg; 35.9 FG%); Adama Ndiaye, F, 6-9/Jr. (3.3 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 0.4 apg; 1.1 bpg; 37.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: LaRon Bryant, G, 6-2/Jr.; Ross Charmichael, F, 6-9/Jr.; Mike Vukovich, F, 6-9/So.
Outlook: The Gauchos caught everyone by surprise last season. After starting 0-8, they went 15-5 and won the West Division, making Williams an easy pick as coach of the year in his first season. There will be no sneaking up on teams this season. That, and the loss of big men Bunton and Merrill, will make things a little more difficult. The rest of the team is formidable. Guards Allen, Ashe and Bell return. Those three were a big reason the Gauchos' pressure defense set a school record for steals. Payton, the brother of Seattle SuperSonics star Gary Payton, was a spark off the bench. Newcomer Bryant, an All-California selection at American River Junior College, can provide more offense. He made 115 3-pointers last season, the second-most in the state. Up front is another matter. Vukovich (6-9) and Mark Hull (6-7) were redshirts last season. The jury is still out on Ndiaye (6-9), who showed lots of raw ability and little savvy last season.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Santa Barbara, Calif. **Home court:** The Thunderdome (6,000).

3 CAL STATE FULLERTON
National Rank: 136

Coach: Bob Hawking (51-84, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 13-14. Big West Western Division: 7-9/4th.
Starters lost (2): Jason Cunningham, F (10.2 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 2.4 apg; 0.2 bpg; 44.2 FG%); Mark Richardson, F (7.0 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 1.4 apg; 0.44 bpg; 47.6 FG%).
Others lost: Josh Helbig, G (2.9 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 0.8 apg; 0.0 bpg; 26.7 FG%).
Starters returning: Ike Harmon, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.7 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 1.5 apg; 1.2 bpg; 46.6 FG%); Kenroy Jarrett, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.7 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 4.0 apg; 0.04 bpg; 39.0 FG%); Mark Murphy, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.5 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 2.8 apg; 0.26 bpg; 40.2 FG%).
Other returnees: Matt Caldwell, C, 6-8/Jr. (9.8 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 0.4 apg; 0.6 bpg; 50.6 FG%); Brandon Campbell, G/F, 6-4/So. (3.1 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.03 bpg; 32.6 FG%); Josh Fischer, F, 6-9/So. (3.8 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 0.08 apg; 0.36 bpg; 51.4 FG%); Danny Italiano, G, 6-5/So. (1.0 ppg; 0.4 rpg; 0.2 apg; 0.0 bpg; 50.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Rodney Anderson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Patrick Ceresa, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: The NCAA landed hard on the Titans in the form of a four-year probation, three years without signing JC players, bans on postseason and television appearances. The last two, however, don't even rate as a slap on the wrist. Fullerton hasn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 1978, and there haven't been many TV opportunities in recent years. Banning JC signings is another matter. So where did Hawking turn? Overseas. He brought in Ceresa, a forward from Switzerland. Ceresa originally committed to UCLA but had difficulty getting enrolled and toddled down the freeway to Fullerton. He will make a nice bookend for Harmon, who averaged 16 points and seven rebounds and was named first-team all-conference. Ceresa also should take some of the defensive pressure off Harmon. The backcourt is small but experienced. Point guard Jarrett averaged nine points and four assists; Murphy averaged 12 points and made 66 three-pointers. Both, though, are 6-0. Campbell, a sophomore who was hampered by injuries last season, can play off-guard as well as small forward.
Last league title: 1976.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1999.
Site: Fullerton, Calif. **Home court:** Titan Gym (3,500).

4 PACIFIC
National Rank: 179

Coach: Bob Thomason (174-44, 11 years).
1998-99 record: 14-13. Big West Western Division: 9-7/T2nd.
Starters lost: Jason Williams, F (16.7 ppg; 7.2 rpg; 1.1 apg; 0.5 bpg; 47.8 FG%); Scott Thomason, G (8.5 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 3.7 apg; 0.0 bpg; 49.7 FG%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Nathan Davis, G, 6-3/So. (5.6 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 4.1 apg; 0.03 bpg; 30.3 FG%); Barry Marvel, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.5 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 1.6 apg; 0.25 bpg; 40.4 FG%); Clay McKnight, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.9 ppg; 7.2 rpg; 1.9 apg; 0.0 bpg; 43.7 FG%); Tim Johnson, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.5 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 0.62 apg; 1.1 bpg; 47.9 FG%).
Other returnees: Dan Masters, F, 6-6/So. (2.7 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 0.65 apg; 0.08 bpg; 34.4 FG%); Mike Preston, F, 6-9/So. (5.7 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 0.46 apg; 0.0 bpg; 64.7 FG%); Ross Mills, C, 6-10/So.(2.3 ppg; 1.5 rpg; 0.2 apg; 0.07 bpg; 39.3 FG%); Mike Hahn, F, 6-7/So. (3.4 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.09 bpg; 50.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Tom Cockle, G/F, 6-5/Jr.; Ray Harris, G, 6-2/Fr.; Peter Heizer, 6-4/Fr.
Outlook: The Tigers slipped to 14-13 last season after winning 47 games and two division titles the previous two years. Whether they regain their form or fall further depends on the development of young players. How much of an unknown the Tigers are is illustrated by twin 6-7 forwards Andy and Matt Abernathy, the sons of former Indiana standout and NBA player Tom Abernathy. Both were redshirts last season, and their impact is yet to be seen. There are lots of other bodies up front, including Preston, Johnson and Mills. One or more will have to establish himself as a solid post player. The backcourt is a little less of an unknown. Davis is a versatile point guard who learned on the job last season. McKnight may be as good a 3-point shooter as there is in the conference. He made 90 last season, despite playing with an injured left shoulder that needed surgery. Harris, a talented freshman from Burbank High in Sacramento, should see plenty of playing time. Marvel will provide scoring and experience at small forward, provided he bounces back from a foot injury that forced him to miss the last seven games.

By Chris Foster *Los Angeles Times*

Predictions

East Division	West Division
1. New Mexico State	1. Long Beach State
2. Idaho	2. UC-Santa Barbara
3. Utah State	3. Cal State Fullerton
4. Boise State	4. Pacific
5. North Texas	5. UC-Irvine
6. Nevada	6. Cal Poly

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ramel Lloyd, Long Beach State	6-4	225	Jr.
G	Billy Keys, New Mexico State	6-2	175	Sr.
C/F	Mate Milisa, Long Beach State	6-11	240	Sr.
F	Ike Harmon, Cal State Fullerton	6-7	190	Sr.
F	Gordon Scott, Idaho	6-5	x	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jerry Green, UC-Irvine	6-3	185	So.
G	Troy Rolle, Utah State	6-2	203	Sr.
C/F	Chris Bjorklund, Cal Poly	6-9	235	Jr.
F	Patrick Ceresa, Cal State Fullerton	6-8	240	Fr.
F	Deginald Erskin, North Texas	6-6	220	So.

Player of the Year

Ramel Lloyd, G, Long Beach State

Newcomer of the Year

Patrick Ceresa, F, Cal State Fullerton

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Clay McKnight, Pacific
Best rebounder: Dimitrios Marmarinos, Nevada
Best playmaker: Charles O'Neal, Long Beach State
Best defender: Antrone Lee, Long Beach State
Best leaper: Brandon Campbell, Cal State Fullerton
Most versatile: Ike Harmon, Cal State Fullerton
Most flamboyant: Jerry Green, UC-Irvine
Best NBA prospect: Ramel Lloyd, Long Beach State

Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Stockton, Calif. **Home Court:** Spanos Center (6,150).

5 UC IRVINE
National Rank: 267

Coach: Pat Douglass (15-38, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 6-20. Big West Western Division: 2-14/6th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Gabe Cagwin, G (7.2 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.0 bpg; 40.6 FG%); Jason Flowers, G (5.4 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 1.8 apg; 0.0 bpg; 40.9 FG%); Matt Willard, C (3.3 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 0.5 apg; 0.4 bpg; 49.2 FG%).
Starters returning: Mark Gottschalk, C, 6-10/So. (2.5 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 0.3 apg; 0.54 bpg; 39.7 FG%); Jerry Green, G, 6-3/So. (12.8 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 3.9 apg; 0.2 bpg; 49.1 FG%); Ben Jones, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (9.3 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 1.7 apg; 0.1 bpg; 41.9 FG%); Marek Ondera, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.1 ppg; 7.0 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.7 bpg; 53.0 FG%); Adam Stetson, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.5 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 1.4 apg; 0.3 bpg; 37.2 FG%);
Other returnees: Zamiro Bennem, G, 6-4/So. (5.8 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.2 apg; 0.3 bpg; 38.6 FG%); Malachi Edmond, G, 6-1/Jr. (1.2 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 0.9 apg; 0.0 bpg; 24.2 FG%).
Top newcomers: Aras Baskauskas, G, 6-2/Fr.; Sean Jackson, F/G, 6-5/Jr.; Matt Okoro, G, 6-7/Fr.; Adam Parada, C, 6-11/Fr.
Outlook: Things haven't been so easy for Douglass, who won three Division II titles at Cal State Bakersfield. His team slipped from nine victories to six last season and suffered through a 14-game losing streak during conference play. There were some bright spots. Green was named Freshman of the Year after averaging 13 points and four assists. He is not a true point guard but is dangerous and flashy. He will be helped out by Jackson, a 6-5 transfer from California. His skills, especially his shooting touch, could move him into the elite level in the conference. His maturity will be a boost to the Anteaters. Irvine again will be a perimeter team. Bennem is raw but talented at guard. Jones and Jens Jensen, a transfer from San Jose City College, are streaky shooters. Inside, again, is the problem. Stetson and Ondera, both 6-7, seemed undersized at power forward last season. Stetson does have grit, and Ondera is a great leaper. Gottschalk could be the key. He has a good shooting touch and has beefed up to 255 pounds.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Irvine, Calif. **Home court:** Bren Events Center (5,000).

6 CAL POLY
National Rank: 284

Coach: Jeff Schneider (55-69, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. Big West Western Division: 6-10/5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Carlos Heard, G (1.8 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.5 apg; 0.16 bpg; 27.3 FG%); Ross Ketchum, F (5.6 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 0.88 apg; 0.0 bpg; 37.4 FG%); Ben Larson, G (5.0 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 4.5 apg; 0.04 bpg; 35.3 FG%); Martin Walsh, F (0.0 ppg; 0.3 ppg; 0.0 apg; 0.33 bpg; 0.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Brandon Beeson, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.8 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 1.4 apg; 0.3 bpg; 45.5 FG%); Chris Bjorklund, C, 6-8/Jr. (18.1 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 1.2 apg; 0.62 bpg; 52.4 FG%); Jeremiah Mayes, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.8 ppg; 7.6 rpg; 1.2 apg; 0.5 bpg; 57.9 FG%); Jabbar Washington, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.6 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 3.0 apg; 0.5 bpg; 42.1 FG%); Mike Wozniak, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.2 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 2.7 apg; 0.03 bpg; 37.7 FG%).
Other returnees: Jason King, G, 5-9/So. (6.5 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.7 apg; 0.0 bpg; 38.4 FG%); Watende Favors, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.3 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 0.6 apg; 0.11 bpg; 40.5 FG%); David Henry, 6-7/So. (2.4 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 0.4 apg; 0.0 bpg; 43.6 FG%).
Top newcomers: Mark Campbell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brandon Hulst, G, 6-3/Fr.; John Hoffart, C, 6-10/Fr.
Outlook: Everyone loved the Mustangs in preseason polls last season, and they finished 11-16. Nearly everyone is back. Whether that's a good thing depends on many factors. Can Wozniak regain his touch? He is 55 points shy of the school scoring record, but he shot only 38 percent from the field last season. Is Bjorklund an inside threat? He averaged a team-high 18 points but didn't really mix it up inside. Does the Mustangs' pressure defense have any bite left? They stressed teams out playing baseline-to-baseline defense two years ago, but they gave up 85 points per game last season. And is coach Schneider an up-and-comer or a Rick Pitino wannabe, spinning his wheels with a foot-stomping, arm-waving style. There are some certainties. Beeson went mostly unnoticed as a hard-working inside player. Mayes led the team in rebounding. Watende Favors is completely healthy, which should help the press. Campbell is a talented freshman, who may end up seeing most of the time at point guard. But there seem to be too many questions.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: San Louis Obispo, Calif. **Home court:** Mott Gymnasium (3,018).

EAST DIVISION

1 NEW MEXICO STATE
National Rank: 46

Coach: Lou Henson (214-93, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-10. Big West Eastern Division: 12-4/T1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest 1st round.
Starters lost: Charles Gosa, F (14.9 ppg; 8.0 rpg; 1.1 apg; 1.4 bpg; 60.5 FG%).
Others lost: Rhonte Davis, F (1.4 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 0.66 apg; 0.06 bpg; 51.6 FG%); Damond Williams, F (0.6 ppg; 0.6 rpg; 0.2 apg; 0.0 bpg; 33.3 FG%).
Starters returning: Brad Bestor, C, 6-2/Sr. (8.9 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.7 apg; 0.1 bpg; 39.8 FG%); Aaron Brodt, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (5.8 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.4 bpg; 49.6 FG%); Eric Channing, G, 6-4/So. (10.4 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 1.3 apg; 0.1 bpg; 44.5 FG%); Billy Keys, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.7 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 4.8 apg; 0.06 bpg; 41.7 FG%).
Other returnees: Daveeno Hines, F, 6-6/Jr. (2.7 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 0.1 apg; 0.2 bpg; 45.0 FG%); Gerard Moore, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.7 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 0.45 apg; 0.25 bpg; 43.9 FG%); Mikko Noopila, F, 6-7/Jr. (2.2 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.2 apg; 0.0 bpg; 36.5 FG%); Zack Norvell, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.2 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 1.5 apg; 0.04 bpg; 42.3 FG%
Top newcomers: Kelsey Crooks, F, 6-6/Fr.; Dennis Desmond, G, 5-11/Fr.; Ryan McDermott, F, 6-9/So.
Outlook: The Aggies returned to prominence, winning the division title and conference tournament. Of course, they were stomped, 82-60, by Kentucky in the NCAA Tournament first round, marking the sixth consecutive year the Big West's entry hasn't won a game. Still, the Aggies should remain at the top of this small pond, provided they can replace leading scorer Gosa, who averaged 15 points and eight rebounds. The backcourt is solid, with conference tournament MVP Keys at the point and all-freshman team selection Channing. Bestor provides 3-point shooting off the bench. Up front is another matter. Brodt is a brute but doesn't have Gosa's finesse. Hines was somewhat of a disappointment. Noopila, a junior from Finland, and Moore will need to do more. Two newcomers could help: Simon Bredenberg, a redshirt freshman, and Stephan Green, a transfer from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. The Aggies, tough, still have too much talent and should hold on to the top spot in the division.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Las Cruces, N.M. **Home court:** Pan American Center (13.071).

2 IDAHO
National Rank: 86

Coach: David Farrar (31-23, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 15-11. Big West Eastern Division: 10-5/3rd.
Starters lost: Cameron Banks, G/F (10.0 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 1.1 apg; 0.1 bpg; 41.6 FG%); Kevin Byrne, C (6.2 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.5 bpg; 51.7 FG%); Avery Curry, G (16.5 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 4.6 apg; 0.1 bpg; 36.9 FG%).
Others lost: Michael Jackson, F (6.4 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 1.3 apg; 0.1 bpg; 44.2 FG%); Tyrwone Still, F (0.0 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0.0 apg; 0.0 bpg; 0.0 FG%); Josh Toal, G (6.5 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 2.3 apg; 0.07 bpg; 41.0 FG%); Falemao Tosi, F (3.0 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 1.05 apg; 0.3 bpg; 70.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Devon Ford, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (10.3 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 0.85 apg; 0.0 bpg; 52.7 FG%); Gordon Scott, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (14.8 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 2.0 apg; 0.5 bpg; 39.3 FG%).
Other returnees: Kaniel Dickens, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.3 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 0.26 apg; 0.5 bpg; 47.8 FG%); Adam Miller, G, 5-10/Jr. (1.3 ppg; 0.3 rpg; 0.5 bpg; 45.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: William Gates, G, 6-6/So.; Matt Gershefske, F, 6-6/So. Lennox McCoy, G, 6-2/Jr.
Outlook: The Vandals suffered through a difficult season and still managed a respectable record. Part of the problem, the inability of guards Curry and Scott to mesh, has been solved. Curry is out of eligibility. Scott must show he was the player that was so highly touted last season. He averaged 15 points but shot only 39 percent. It doesn't help that the Vandals do not have a proven point guard. McCoy, a transfer from Indian Hills Community College, is a fierce defender. Ford, a returnee, averaged 10 points a year ago. Neither seems suited to handle the ball. A year ago, the Vandals' inside game was nonexistent, a point made obvious by the fact that Ford led the team in rebounding. Dickens showed flashes but was inconsistent. Farrar has sought help from the junior-college ranks, bringing in Gates and Gershefske. Gates averaged 10 points and eight rebounds for Butler County (Kan.) Community College. Gershefske is more of a perimeter player, as he made 52 three-pointers for Southwest Missouri-West Plains College last season.
Last conference title: 1990 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Moscow, Idaho. **Home Court:** Kibbie Dome (10,000).

3 UTAH STATE
National Rank: 106

Coach: Stew Morrill (15-13, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 15-13. Big West Eastern Division: 8-8/T4th
Starters lost: Tyrone Allick, G (6.0 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 3.2 apg; 0.07 bpg; 46.7 FG%); Pharoah Davis, F (10.4 ppg; 7.7 rpg; 1.07 apg; 0.32 bpg; 53.8 FG%); Rashad Elliott, G (3.6 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 4.76 apg; 0.03 bpg; 32.3 FG%); Donnie Johnson, C (14.3 ppg; 8.3 rpg; 0.8 apg; 1.1 bpg; 58.1 FG%).
Others lost: Brandon Birch, F (1.9 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 0.1 apg; 0.1 bpg; 71.4 FG%); Spencer Nelson, F (4.5 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 0.75 apg; 0.3 bpg; 63.6 FG%); Rick Randall, G (4.3 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.14 bpg; 40.2 FG%).
Starters returning: Troy Rolle, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.4 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 1.46 apg; 0.03 bpg; 42.2 FG%).
Other returnees: Tony Brown, G, 6-3/So. (11.0 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 1.1 apg; 0.03 bpg; 40.5 FG%); Brandon Fries, G, 6-1/Sr. (2.2 ppg; 0.5 rpg; 0.37 apg; 0.0 bpg; 52.9 FG%); Dmitri Jorssen, C, 6-11/Jr. (2.5 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 0.1 apg; 0.36 bpg; 53.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Dion Bailey, G, 6-3/Jr.; Curtis Bobb, F, 6-6/Jr.; Shawn Daniels, F, 6-6/Jr.; Andre Mahorn, F, 6-6/Jr.; Rashaun Thomas, G, 5-11/Jr.; Bernard Rock, G, 5-11/Jr.
Outlook: Lots of new faces around Logan this year, as only three players return. Two are skilled, Brown and Rolle, and the other is big, Jorssen. Brown averaged 11 points and was named to the conference's all-freshman team. Role averaged 13 points. Both are excellent shooters. Jorssen, a junior from Belgium, spent much of last season learning the American game, but he will be counted on more this season. Dan Stewart is also back from his Mormon mission. He averaged 1.3 points for the Aggies in 1997. The rest are newcomers, the most important of which is point guard Rock. A transfer from New Mexico Military Institute, Rock sat out last season but was the co-MVP of the West Texas League in 1997-98, when he averaged 20 points and four assists. He needs to shake off the cobwebs fast for the Aggies to have a chance. If he doesn't, Thomas, a transfer from Fullerton College, probably will run the show. Mahorn, a transfer from Cerro Cosa Junior College, and Bobb, a transfer from Southern Idaho, will help up front. Mahorn averaged 24 points and nine rebounds and was named first-team All-California last season.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Logan, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Glen Smith Spectrum (10,270).

4 BOISE STATE
National Rank: 159

Coach: Rod Jensen (67-47, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 21-8. Big West Eastern Division: 12-4/T1st.
Starters lost: Roberto Bergersen, F (22.2 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 2.3 apg; 0.4 bpg; 48.0 FG%); Gerry Washington, G (12.2 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 3.5 apg; 0.06 bpg; 39.4 FG%).
Others lost: Steve Shephard, G (2.3 ppg; 0.8 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.0 bpg; 39.3 FG%).
Starters returning: Abe Jackson, F, 6-7/So. (7.5 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 0.9 apg; 0.2 bpg; 51.7 FG%); C.J. Williams, G, 6-0/So. (2.4 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 2.4 apg; 0.0 bpg; 51.3 FG%); Kejuan Woods, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.3 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 0.85 apg; 0.6 bpg; 52.2 FG%).

Big West Schedules

Boise State
N20 at Northern Arizona
N23 Idaho State
N27 Loyola Marymount
D1 at Gonzaga
D4 Weber State
D11 Northern Arizona
D21 at Southern Utah
D23 at Washington
D30 Cincinnati
J3 Portland
J7 at San Francisco
J13 Pacific
J15 Long Beach State
J20 at Cal St. Fullerton
J22 at UC-Irvine
J27 Utah State
J29 Nevada
F3 at Idaho
F5 at Cal Poly
F10 at North Texas
F12 at New Mexico State
F17 North Texas
F19 New Mexico State
F24 Idaho
F26 UC-Santa Barbara
M2 at Nevada
M4 at Utah State

Cal Poly
N20 Simon Fraser
N22 Northern Arizona
N27 Portland State
D4 Cal St. Northridge
D11 at Indiana-Purdue
D14 Menlo
D18 at Northern Arizona
D21 at UNLV
D28 Indiana-Purdue
D30 San Francisco
J2 at Cal St. Northridge
J13 at New Mexico State
J15 at North Texas
J20 Nevada
J22 Utah State
J27 at Long Beach St.
J29 at Pacific
F3 UC-Santa Barbara
F5 Boise State
F10 UC-Irvine
F12 Cal St. Fullerton
F17 at UC-Irvine
F19 at Cal St. Fullerton
F23 at UC-Santa Barbara
F27 at Idaho
M2 Pacific
M4 Long Beach State

Cal State Fullerton
N19 at Simon Fraser
N23 San Diego
N27 at Montana State
N30 at St. Mary's
D4 Loyola Marymount
D7 at Pepperdine
D11 San Jose State
D21 Patten College
D30 Eastern Kentucky
J5 at San Diego State
J8 at San Diego
J13 at Utah State
J15 at Nevada
J20 Boise State
J22 Idaho
J26 at UC-Irvine
J29 at North Texas
F3 Pacific
F5 Long Beach St.
F10 at UC-Santa Barbara
F12 at Cal Poly
F17 UC-Santa Barbara
F19 Cal Poly
F24 at Long Beach State
F26 at Pacific
M1 UC-Irvine
M4 New Mexico St.

Idaho
N19 Oral Roberts*
N20 at Oklahoma State
N23 at Washington State
N29 at Eastern Washington
D1 at Oregon State
D5 Montana
D10-11 Coca-Cola Classic
D18 Gonzaga
D29-30 Bobcat Holiday Classic
J8 Western Montana
J13 Long Beach State
J15 Pacific
J20 UC-Irvine
J22 at Cal State Fullerton
J27 Nevada
J29 Utah State
F3 Boise State
F5 at UC-Santa Barbara
F10 at New Mexico State
F12 at North Texas
F17 New Mexico State
F19 North Texas
F24 at Boise State
F27 Cal Poly
M2 at Utah State
M4 at Nevada
*Stillwater, Okla.

Long Beach State
N20 at Pepperdine
N23 Cal St. Dominguez Hills
N28 Southern Illinois
D3-4 Carrier Classic
D8 at Air Force
D16 USC
D18 Loyola Marymount
D22 Cal St. Monterey Bay
D29 Albany
J4 at Kansas State
J13 at Idaho
J15 at Boise State
J20 New Mexico State
J22 North Texas
J27 Cal Poly
J29 UC-Santa Barbara
F3 at UC-Irvine
F5 at Cal St. Fullerton
F10 Pacific
F12 Utah State
F17 at Pacific
F19 at Nevada
F24 Cal St. Fullerton
F26 UC-Irvine
M2 at UC-Santa Barbara
M4 at Cal Poly

Nevada
N19 Washington State
N21 San Francisco
N24 at UNLV
N26 Sacramento State
D4 at Wyoming
D8 at Sacramento State
D16 at Stanford
D18 College of Notre Dame
D22 at Butler
J5 Saint Mary's (CA)
J8 Santa Clara
J13 UC-Irvine
J15 Cal State Fullerton
J20 at Cal Poly
J22 at UC-Santa Barbara
J27 at Idaho
J29 at Boise State
F3 New Mexico State
F5 North Texas
F10 at Utah State
F12 at Pacific
F17 Utah State
F19 Long Beach State
F24 at North Texas
F26 at New Mexico State
M2 Boise State
M4 Idaho

New Mexico State
N16-26 Preseason NIT
N30 San Diego State
D4 UTEP
D8 New Mexico
D11 Western New Mexico
D17 Texas Tech
D21 at Colorado
D23 at New Mexico
D29 Washington
J2 at SMU
J6 at UTEP
J13 Cal Poly
J15 UC-Santa Barbara
J20 at Long Beach State
J22 at Pacific
J26 at North Texas
J29 UC-Irvine
F3 at Nevada
F5 at Utah State
F10 Idaho
F12 Boise State
F17 at Idaho
F19 at Boise State
F24 Utah State
F26 Nevada
M1 North Texas
M4 at Cal St. Fullerton

North Texas
N23 Wichita State
N27 at Oklahoma State
N29 Texas A&M
D1 at Texas Tech
D4 SW Louisiana
D10-11 Indiana Classic
D21 at Baylor
D30 Tulsa
J3 at TCU
J8 at Wyoming
J13 UC-Santa Barbara
J15 Cal Poly
J20 at Pacific
J22 at Long Beach St.
J27 New Mexico State
J29 Cal St. Fullerton
F3 at Utah State
F5 at Nevada
F10 Boise State
F12 Idaho
F17 at Boise State
F19 at Idaho
F24 Nevada
F26 Utah State
M1 at New Mexico State
M4 at UC-Irvine

Pacific
N20 at Santa Clara
N23 Loyola Marymount
N27 at California
N29 Portland State
D4-5 PowerBar Invitational
D8 Cal State Stanislaus
D18 Fresno State
D22 at Texas-Pan American
D30 Pepperdine
J4 at Nebraska
J8 San Diego State
J13 at Boise State
J15 at Idaho
J20 North Texas
J22 New Mexico State
J27 UC-Santa Barbara
J29 Cal Poly
F3 at Cal St. Fullerton
F5 at UC-Irvine
F10 at Long Beach State
F12 Nevada
F17 Long Beach State
F19 at Utah State
F24 UC-Irvine
F26 Cal St. Fullerton
M2 at Cal Poly
M4 at UC-Santa Barbara

UC-Irvine
N19 San Diego
N26-27 Sooner Holiday Classic
D1 at Loyola Marymount
D4 St. Mary's
D14 Western Washington
D18 at California
D22 Humboldt State
D30 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J5 at BYU
J9 High Point
J13 at Nevada
J15 at Utah State
J20 Idaho
J22 Boise State
J26 Cal St. Fullerton
J29 at New Mexico State
F3 Long Beach State
F5 Pacific
F10 at Cal Poly
F12 at UC-Santa Barbara
F17 Cal Poly
F19 UC-Santa Barbara
F24 at Pacific
F26 at Long Beach State
M1 at Cal St. Fullerton
M4 North Texas

UC-Santa Barbara
N20 Stanford
N24 at San Jose State
N28 at San Francisco
D1 at USC
D4 Westmont College
D11 Pepperdine
D20 Concordia
D22 at San Diego State
D29 BYU
J5 at Loyola Marymount
J8 St. Mary's
J13 at North Texas
J15 at New Mexico State
J20 Utah State
J22 Nevada
J27 at Pacific
J29 at Long Beach State
F3 at Cal Poly
F5 Idaho
F10 Cal St. Fullerton
F12 UC-Irvine
F17 at Cal St. Fullerton
F19 at UC-Irvine
F23 Cal Poly
F26 at Boise State
M2 Long Beach State
M4 Pacific

Utah State
N13 Simon Fraser
N22-24 Maui Classic
D1 at Northern Arizona
D4 UC-San Diego
D7 at Utah
D9 Northern Arizona
D18 Western Colorado St.
D21 at Weber State
D28-29 Gossner Foods Classic
J4 Fresno State
J8 BYU
J13 Cal St. Fullerton
J15 UC-Irvine
J20 at UC-Santa Barbara
J22 at Cal Poly
J27 at Boise State
J29 at Idaho
F3 North Texas
F5 New Mexico State
F10 Nevada
F12 at Long Beach State
F17 at Nevada
F19 Pacific
F24 at New Mexico State
F26 at North Texas
M2 Idaho
M4 Boise State

Other returnees: Delvin Armstrong, F, 6-4/Jr. (2.8 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 0.5 apg; 0.03 bpg; 44.4 FG%); Clint Hordemann, G, 6-3/Jr. (5.1 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 1.5 apg; 0.4 bpg; 44.4 FG%); Richard Morgan, F/C, 6-8/So. (6.0 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 0.8 apg; 0.8 bpg; 49.3 FG%); Trever Tillman, C, 6-11/Jr. (2.0 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 0.12 apg; 0.75 bpg; 48.7 FG%); Dustin Van Weerdhuizen, G, 6-5/So. (1.2 ppg; 0.9 rpg; 0.2 apg; 0.08 bpg; 23.5 FG%).
Top newcomers: Scott Fraser-Dauphinee, F/Fr.; Joe Skiffer, G/Fr.; Booker Nabors, G/Fr.
Outlook: Bergersen was the conference's Player of the Year and helped the Broncos reach the conference tournament title game. He cannot be replaced by one player. A group will try. Woods will move outside more. He is the team's top returning scorer but averaged only nine points. Jackson had a strong finish, averaging 16 points and eight rebounds in the last three games. Much will depend on Williams' health. He started 12 games last season, and the Broncos were 10-2 in those games, but he was slowed by a sore left knee. After that, things thin out. The Broncos are hoping that Michael Gely, a sophomore from France, can make an impact in a conference devoid of true centers. Senior Justin Lyons is back after missing nearly two seasons because of a knee injury.
Last league title: 1994 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Boise, Idaho. **Home court:** BSU Pavilion (12,380).

5 NORTH TEXAS
National Rank: 214

Coach: Vic Trilli (9-43, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 4-22. Big West Eastern Division: 4-12/T5th.
Starters lost: Charles Washington, F (8.9 ppg; 8,2 rpg; 1.3 apg; 0.03 bpg; 37.9 FG%).
Others lost: Joe Ervin, G (7.1 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 0.34 apg; 0.0 bpg; 33.7 FG%); Dominic Hardie, G (3.9 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 0.5 apg; 0.04 bpg; 34.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Deginald Erskin, F, 6-6/So. (12.3 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 0.4 apg; 0.8 bpg; 47.1 FG%); Brandon Gilbert, C, 6-7/Sr. (6.5 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 0.8 apg; 0.5 bpg; 42.6 FG%); Dexter Tennell, G, 6-7/So. (10.8 ppg; 3.0 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.1 bpg; 37.3 FG%); Calvin Williams, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.9 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 5.26 apg; 0.07 bpg; 33.2 FG%).
Other returnees: Wes Allen, G, 6-3/So. (3.5 ppg; 0.7 rpg; 0.44 apg; 0.0 bpg; 38.9 FG%); Michael Colter, G, 6-0/Sr. (0.8 ppg; 0.4 rpg; 1.0 apg; 0.0 bpg; 33.3 FG%); Sam Funches, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.6 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 0.6 apg; 0.4 bpg; 42.7 FG%); Kenneth Mangrum, F, 6-4/So. (5.0 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 0.6 apg; 0.3 bpg; 42.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Kyle Crawford, G, 5-11/Jr.; Bryan Lucas, F, 6-7/Jr.
Outlook: The Eagles played the tomato can for bigger and better programs last season. Maryland, Arkansas, Princeton and Iowa State made an 0-12 start possible. The schedule isn't quite as brutal this season, but it remains tough. The Eagles' key players are a year older. Erskin and Tennell were named to the conference's all-freshman team. Erskin scored 75 points in the last two games and averaged 12 points for the season. Tennell averaged 11 points on the season, but 21 in the last four games. The key will be filling in the areas around them. Williams returns at point guard, but look for Crawford, a transfer from Western Oklahoma State, to challenge him. He averaged 20 points and eight assists last season. Funches, who came from UConn the previous season, and Gilbert are back. Lucas, a transfer from Azusa Pacific, will add bulk up front.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Denton, Texas. **Home Court**: The Super Pit (10,000).

6 NEVADA
National Rank: 282

Coach: Trent Johnson (first year).
1998-99 record: 8-18. Big West Eastern Division: 4-12/5th.
Starters lost: Derrick Anderson, G (11.3 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 4.5 apg; 0.5 bpg; 40.8 FG%); Lamont Bonner, F (7.0 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 1.04 apg; 0.4 bpg; 63.6 FG%); John Burrell, G (16.4 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 2.4 apg; 0.46 bpg; 39.2 FG%).
Others lost: Andre McLeod, F (5.4 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 0.45 apg; 0.08 bpg; 44.2 FG%)
Starters returning: Dimitrios Marmarinos, C, 6-9/Sr. (10.2 ppg; 6.5 rpg; 0.9 apg; 1.5 bpg; 51.8 FG%); Tommy Zapata, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.3 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 3.8 apg; 0.15 bpg; 39.9 FG%)
Other returnees: Calvin Criddle, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (7.5 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 0.5 apg; 0.05 bpg; 47.2 FG%); Marlon Miller, C/F, 6-9/So. (1.8 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 0.3 apg; 0.1 bpg; 46.5 FG%); Joao Santos, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (3.5 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 0.7 apg; 0.16 bpg; 44.2 FG%).
Top newcomers: Donny Guerinoni, G, 6-0/Jr.; Adrian McCullough, G, 5-10/Jr.; Richard Stirgus, F, 6-6/Jr.
Outlook: The Wolf Pack's final season in the Big West before jumping to the WAC might not be pretty, and could leave the conference tournament without a "home" team for a second consecutive season. Coach Johnson, an assistant at Stanford the last three seasons, must rebuild quickly before joining the WAC. There are some solid returners, including Marmarinos, a center from Greece. He averaged 10 points and seven rebounds last season. Guards Zapata and Criddle each averaged seven points, which may be their high end. Look for Guerinoni, a transfer from Las Vegas' West Valley Junior College, to step in at guard. He averaged 15 points and was named the MVP of the Coast Conference last season. A little more will be expected from Santos, a guard/forward from Portugal. He averaged four points in 18 games last season. The future is in the WAC, and Johnson kept two Nevada high school kids home to build for that. Freshmen Matt Ochs and James Bayless were named all-state last season.
Last league title: 1985 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Reno, Nev. **Home court:** Lawlor Events Center (11,200).

Colonial Athletic

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

RANK 19

1 GEORGE MASON
National Rank: 62

Coach: Jim Larranaga (28-29, 2 years; 226-198 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 19-11. Colonial: 13-3/1st. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA East 1st round.
Starters lost: Jason Miskiri, G (15.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.0 spg, 34.3 mpg)
Others lost: Avery Carey, F (9.6 mpg); Nik Mirich, C (52.3 FG%, 10.6 mpg).
Starters returning: Ahmad Dorsett, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 1.2 spg, 75.6 FT%, 25.7 mpg); George Evans, F, 6-7/Jr. (17.2 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 2.2 spg, 55.7 FG%, 35.1 mpg); Erik Herring, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 1.6 spg, 45.2 FG%, 43.9 3-pt%, 26.9 mpg); Keith Holdan, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 36.8 3-pt%, 30.7).
Other returnees: Rob Anderson, F/G, 6-5/So.; Terrance Nixon, F, 6-6/Jr. (72.2 FT%, 9.8 mpg); Tremaine Price, G, 5-8/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 50.6 FG%, 40.7 3-pt%, 13.2 mpg); Quilninious Randall, F, 6-7/So.
Top newcomers: Tyrone Tiggs, G, 6-0/Fr.; Jesse Yoing, F, 6-10/Fr.; Jon Larranaga, F, 6-10/Fr. (RS).
Outlook: He may not be quite old enough to be their father, but Evans will be teaching the rest of the CAA post men lessons again this season. Evans, who turns 29 in January, returns as the league's reigning player of the year. After a few years in the military, the powerfully built Evans accepted the scholarship offer of former coach Paul Westhead, then helped Larranaga's team to the 1999 CAA title. For the flair to complement Evans' intensity, the Patriots have Herring, a slashing, explosive swingman who may turn into a CAA star this season.The primary question facing Mason is at the point, where Price must step in for All-Patriot Miskiri. Miskiri served not only as the Patriots' main ballhandler last season, he also gave them backcourt creativity (15.8 ppg).
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Fairfax, Va. **Home court:** Patriot Center (10,000).

2 EAST CAROLINA
National Rank: 88

Coach: Bill Herrion (first year; 167-71 overall, 8 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record)
1998-99 record: 13-14. Colonial: 7-9/7th.
Starters lost: Alico Dunk, G (20.4 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Garrett Blackwelder, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 86.6 FT%, 30.3 mpg); Evaldas Jocys, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 80.0 FT%, 42.5 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg); Neil Punt, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 54.1 FG%, 28.7 mpg); David Taylor, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 73.1 FT%, 52.9 3-pt%, 23.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Kenyatta Brown, G, 6-4/So. (9.2 mpg); Steven Branch, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 56.5 FG%, 22.3 mpg); Quincy Hall, C, 7-0/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 55.2 FG%, 18.0 mpg); Brandon Hawkins, G, 6-2/So. (9.0 ppg, 35.8 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg); Vinston Sharpe, F, 6-5/Jr.; Alphons van Ierland, C, 7-0/Jr.
Top newcomers: Travis Holcomb-Faye, G, 6-1/Fr.; Randy Barnes, F, 6-6/So. (transfer/Lenoir-Rhyne).
Outlook: Herrion inherits a well-stocked program from Joe Dooley, who signed versatile forwards Jocys and Barnes to lead this season's club. Jocys has an NBA future, with scoring and passing abilities uncommon for a 6-9 player. Barnes has interior power and a good-quality mid-range jumper he will show off in his first Division I season, an entry delayed by academic problems. Seven-footers are a CAA rarity, but the Pirates have two (Hall and van Ierland). They are both athletic, but have struggled with injuries. Should Herrion bring this group together, postseason play seems a very strong possibility.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1983.
Site: Greenville, N.C. **Home court:** Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (7,500).

3 RICHMOND
National Rank: 108

Coach: John Beilein (38-20, 2 years; 385-225 overall, 20 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-12. Colonial: 10-6/3rd.
Starters lost: Jonathan Baker, G (12.8 ppg, 37.7 3-pt%, 36.6 mpg).
Others lost: David Hensel, C (1.4 bpg, 70.3 FG%, 14.8 mpg).
Starters returning: Marques Cunningham, G, 6-0/So. (8.8 ppg, 37.7 3-pt%, 29.0 mpg); Scott Kauffman, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 53.8 FG%, 79.2 FT%, 18.9); Charles Stephens, F, 6-5/So. (17.0 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 34.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Scott Ungerer, F, 6-7/So. (4.0 ppg, 84.6 FT%, 21.2 mpg); Rick Houston, F, 6-4/Jr. (11.2 mpg); Tim Faulconer, C, 6-11/So. (1.0 bpg, 9.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Reggie Brown, G, 6-4/Fr.; Jonathan Collins, C, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Jeff Myers, G, 6-1/Fr.; Greg Stevenson, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Penn State);
Outlook: The Spiders won't have any seniors, but the returnees gained loads of experience last year, especially Stephens and Kinte Smith, a transfer from George Washington. Nobody predicted the impact Stephens would make during his freshman year, when he finished second in CAA scoring (17.0 ppg). He runs the floor, works the offensive boards and finds ways to score anywhere inside 18 feet, although he's not an outstanding shooter. Smith also jabs defenses in various ways, and he'll be the leader after the departure of Baker, the program's best shooter and defender. What Richmond requires for title contention is an inside presence. Holdovers Scott Kauffman and Tim Faulconer, finesse centers, may give way to freshman banger Eric Zwayer before Christmas.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Robins Center (9,171).

4 VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
National Rank: 119

Coach: Mack McCarthy (14-15, 1 year; 257-137 overall, 13 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-15. Colonial: 8-8/6th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Scott Moore, G (4.8 ppg, 77.3 FT%, 12.5 mpg); Jason Park, F.
Starters returning: Shannon Martin, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 49.0 FG%, 36.9 3-pt%, 19.2 mpg); Patrick Kodjoe, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 85.3 FT%, 25.1 mpg); Fedor Likcholitov, C, 6-10/Jr. (1.4 bpg, 13.0 mpg); Scott Lilly, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.0 ppg, 20.9 mpg); LaMar Taylor, G, 5-9/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 75.5 FT%, 44.4 3-pt%, 31.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Shawn Hampton, F, 6-8/So. (10.3 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 46.4 FG%, 25.0 mpg); Bo Jones, G, 5-11/Jr. (14.3 ppg, 78.0 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 27.7 mpg); Reggie Okosa, F, 6-9/So. (4.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 17.8 mpg); Garland Ragler, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.1 mpg); Alexander Shtam, G, 6-3/So.
Top newcomers: Josh Graham, F, 6-5/Fr.; Hunter Hoggatt, G, 6-2/So. (RS); Antonio Lappegard, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ben Rand, G, 5-11/Fr.; Matt Treadwell, C, 6-11/Fr.
Outlook: Play Taylor and Jones man-to-man, and watch as Taylor's penetration wrecks the scheme. Go zone and see Jones drop 3s. The CAA doesn't have a more dangerous backcourt combination, or a more challenging defensive problem. The Rams could use an in-the-paint punch to make things easier for Taylor and Jones. The Rams' fortunes could be tied to the development of two players who exhibited stretches of terrific minutes last season: Martin and Hampton. Martin possesses offensive initiative and a nice touch from inside 20 feet. Hampton, as a freshman, showed wonderful agility. McCarthy hopes to get the power lift needed from young players Treadwell, who sat out last season, and Okosa and junior Fedor Likcholitov. But the Rams will be a perimeter-based team as long as Taylor and Jones stay healthy. They should improve on last season's 15-win tour because every player of consequence returns.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** ALLTEL Pavilion (7,500).

5 OLD DOMINION
National Rank: 151

Coach: Jeff Capel (98-61, 5 years; 177-126 overall, 10 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 25-9. Colonial: 11-5/2nd. Lost to Butler in NIT 2nd round.
Starters lost: Reggie Bassette, C (9.8 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 2.2 bpg, 54.5 FG%, 24.1 mpg); Cal Bowdler, F (14.7 ppg, 10.0 rpg, 2.8 bpg, 49.2 FG%, 30.0 mpg); Mike Byers, G (5.1 ppg, 1.2 spg, 24.6 mpg); Mark Poag, F (11.6 ppg, 82.8 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Michael Williams, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 26.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Freddie Bryant, G, 6-7/Jr. (46.5 FG%, 48.8 3-pt%, 15.5 mpg); Pierre Greene, G, 6-1/So. (1.1 spg, 14.7

By John O'Connor
Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch

Predictions

1. George Mason
2. East Carolina
3. Richmond
4. Virginia Commonwealth
5. Old Dominion
6. James Madison
7. UNC-Wilmington
8. American
9. William & Mary

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jabari Outtz, James Madison	6-0	190	Sr.
G	Lamar Taylor, Va. Commonwealth	5-10	175	Jr.
F	George Evans, George Mason	6-7	215	Jr.
F	Charles Stephens, Richmond	6-5	200	So.
F	Evaldas Jocys, East Carolina	6-9	220	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jarion Childs, American	6-1	180	Sr.
G	Jamar Perry, James Madison	6-4	190	Sr.
F	Kinte Smith, Richmond	6-5	185	Jr.
F	Patrick Doctor, American	6-9	235	So.
F	Jim Moran, William & Mary	6-7	200	Jr.

Player of the Year

George Evans, F, George Mason

Newcomer of the Year

Randy Barnes, F, East Carolina

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Bo Jones, Virginia Commonwealth
Best rebounder: George Evans, George Mason
Best playmaker: Jabari Outtz, James Madison
Best defender: Jarion Childs, American
Best leaper: Erik Herring, George Mason
Most versatile: Evaldas Jocys, East Carolina
Most flamboyant: Erik Herring, George Mason
Best NBA prospect: Evaldas Jocys, East Carolina

More on the Colonial Athletic Association at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

mpg); Clifton Jones, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 18.0 mpg); Andre McCullum, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 54.3 FG%, 21.6 mpg); Skipper Youngblood, C, 6-8/Sr. (RS).
Top newcomers: Ricardo Marsh, F, 6-7/Fr.; Aron McMillian, C, 6-8/So. (transfer/Wake Forest); Joe Principe, C, 6-9/Fr.; Rasheed Wright, F, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: Monarchs Rebuild! Bowdler, Bassette, Poag and Byers are gone, leaving Capel working with virtually a blank slate. Capel planned too well for the rest of the Colonial to assume a collapse. He and Youngblood agreed on a redshirt year before last season, giving the Monarchs a 6-9 senior with three years of Division I competition in his pocket. To help Youngblood inside, Capel brought in three 6-9 players, among them McMillian. ODU also can depend on two transfer forwards, McCullum (North Carolina State) and Jones (Duquesne), tremendous athletes who filled valuable roles at ODU last season. Guard play last season was spotty, meaning Williams, Bryant and Greene need to step up.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** The Scope (10, 253).

6 JAMES MADISON
National Rank: 154

Coach: Sherman Dillard (27-27, 2 years; 56-69 overall, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 16-11. Colonial: 9-7/T4th.
Starters lost: Eugene Atkinson, F (9.5 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 29.0 mpg); Chatney Howard, F (14.9 ppg, 1.0 spg, 33.0 mpg).
Others lost: Brett Childers, G (50.0 FG%, 83.3 FT%); Ned Felton, G; Marvin Zaandam, F.
Starters returning: Jabari Outtz, G, 6-0/Sr. (15.0 ppg, 4.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 76.1 FT%, 30.5 mpg); Jamar Perry, G, 6-4/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 80.8 FT%, 36.3 3-pt%, 31.4 mpg); Rob Strickland, C, 6-10/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 22.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Dwayne Braxton, G, 6-3/Jr.; Mark Dicicco, G, 5-10/Jr.; Charlie Hatter, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Kevan Johnson, F, 6-6/Sr. (48.4 FG%, 10.2 mpg); Tim Lyle, F, 6-8/So. (7.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 57.3 FG%, 60.0 3-pt%, 28.7 mpg)
Top newcomers: Ian Caskill, C, 6-10/Fr.; Mickey Dennis, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Williston (North Dakota); David Fanning, G, 6-0/Fr.; Pat Mitchell, F, 6-7/Fr. (transfer/Gonzaga); Jerian Younger, F, 6-8/Fr. (transfer/George Washington).
Outlook: If Strickland is to become what many think he can, this is his last chance. Again, JMU's chance of challenging in the Colonial depends on Strickland, whose strength is unmatched in this league. Dillard may not be so patient with Strickland this season, because the Dukes signed two post men—Younger and Caskill—who may be ready to contribute. Despite losing streaky scorer Howard, there's backcourt strength with Outtz, a potent point guard, and 3-point threat Perry.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Harrisonburg, Va. **Home court:** JMU Convocation Center (7,156).

7 UNC-WILMINGTON
National Rank: 215

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (76-69, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 11-17. Colonial: 9-7/T4th.
Starters lost: Billy Donlon, G (9.1 ppg, 5.2 apg, 35.6 mpg); Tadearl Pratt, F (9.9 ppg, 45.8 FG%, 22.1 mpg); Stan Simmons, G (16.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.3 spg, 37.9 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Victor Ebong, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 25.0 mpg); Oleg Kojenets, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 17.2).
Other returnees: Danny Dahl, G, 6-5/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 16.6 mpg); Marcus Green, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 20.5 mpg); Stewart Hare, F, 6-7/So. (4.3 ppg, 15.9 mpg); Dominick Scott, G, 6-4/Jr.
Top newcomers: Brett Blizzard, G, 6-3/Fr.; Craig Callahan, F, 6-8/Fr.; Justin Leith, F, 6-6/Fr.; Barron Thelmon, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: A program that has needed scorers for several seasons is missing perhaps the most talented offensive player in school history in Simmons. Now, the Seahawks revamp without him and steady point guard Donlon. That leaves Wainwright looking for leadership, ballhandling and buckets. Expect Green, a post man who has developed slowly, to carry more of the scoring along with Hare and Scott. The Seahawks picture, with four newcomers, is a bit fuzzy, but count on one thing: They will be the toughest team in the CAA to score against. Wilmington struggled to score last season (60.2 ppg), and that is likely to continue without an established offensive player.
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Wilmington, N.C. **Home court:** Trask Coliseum (6,100).

8 AMERICAN
National Rank: 268

Coach: Art Perry (16-40, 2 years; 23-60 overall, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 7-21. Colonial: 2-14/9th.
Starters lost: Matt Brown, F/G (10.6 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.0 spg, 45.9 FG%, 24.7 mpg); David Small, F (8.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.5 spg, 75.5 FT%, 46.7 3-pt%, 31.7 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Jarion Childs, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 4.5 apg, 2.9 spg, 32.3 mpg); Patrick Doctor, F/C, 6-9/So. (11.0 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 27.8 mpg); Saliou-Binet Telly, C, 6-8/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 24.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Hasheem Alexander, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS); Keith Gray, F, 6-8/So. (45.0 FG%, 14.4 mpg); Ossie Jones, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 26.1 mpg); David Olsen, G, 5-9/Sr.
Top newcomers: Derek Ahern, C/F, 6-10/Fr.; Charles Pringle, F, 6-8/Fr.; Tim Washington, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: The big men, Doctor, Telly and Gray, need additional bulk to go with their agility to make a mark in the CAA. Perry is set at the point with Childs, a defensive ace and fine court leader. Jones can shoot the Eagles into a game, but sometimes forces the action. Perry expects several of his five newcomers to see considerable playing time immediately, especially guard Ronald Dodson, who averaged 25.2 points last season in junior college. The Eagles, however, still may be a bit young to challenge in the Colonial.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Bender Arena (5,500).

9 WILLIAM & MARY
National Rank: 287

Coach: Charlie Woollum (58-76, 5 years; 376-297 overall, 24 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 8-18. Colonial: 3-13/8th.
Starters lost: Randy Bracy, G (13.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.9 spg, 32.2 mpg); Justin Jackette, G (12.1 ppg, 1.1 spg, 27.8 mpg/transfer/Manhattan).
Others lost: Jermaine Harmon, F (8.5 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 49.1 FG%, 30.4 mpg); Jarad Houston, C (46.2 FG%, 9.7 mpg/transfer/Penn State).
Starters returning: Jim Moran, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.5 spg, 48.7 FG%, 35.4 mpg); Tom Strohbehn, F, 6-9/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 78.2 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 27.5 mpg); Mit Winter, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 32.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Brian Brown, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Kori Brown, F, 6-6/So.; Cody Carbaugh, G, 6-3/So. (13.1 mpg); Peter Coughter, G, 6-1/So.; Bill Davis, F, 6-7/So.; Alex Klein, G, 6-4/Jr.; James Haunty, F, 6-6/Jr.; Scotty Scott, G, 5-10/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 24.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Adam Duggins, C, 6-11/Fr., Alex English, G, 6-3/Fr.; Mike Johnson, F, 6-7/So. (transfer/Oklahoma State); Sherman Rivers, G, 6-0/Fr.
Outlook: The Tribe, which has lost two blooming starters in center Bill Phillips and Jackette to transfer since the spring of '98, will try to regroup. Woollum still has is the CAA's King of Hustle, Moran, and a cast of other complementary pieces. Quickness is not a strength, so Moran, Winter and Strohbehn hope to get by with offensive precision and excellent defense. William and Mary desperately needs some inside force that Oklahoma State transfer Johnson may supply.
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Williamsburg, Va. **Home court:** William & Mary Hall (10,000).

Colonial Schedules

UNC Wilmington
N20 at Wisc.-Green Bay
N23 Butler
N27 at Campbell
D1 William & Mary
D2 Washington
D18 at Old Dominion
D21 at Central Florida
D23 at Florida
D28-30 Fiesta Bowl Classic
J5 Richmond
J8 at American
J10 at George Mason
J15 Belmont
J17 Illinois-Chicago
J19 Va. Commonwealth
J22 at East Carolina
J26 at James Madison
J29 American
F2 at Richmond
F5 Old Dominion
F7 James Madison
F12 at Va. Commonwlth
F14 at Belmont
F19 George Mason
F23 at William & Mary
F26 East Carolina

Richmond
N22 Fordham
N24 at Navy
D1 James Madison
D3-4 Carrier Classic
D7 Liberty
D16 at So. Methodist
D18 at McNeese State
D21 Virginia
D28 Western Michigan
D30 at Marist
J5 at UNC-Wilmington
J8 at Old Dominion
J12 at East Carolina
J15 William & Mary
J17 at Radford
J22 American
J26 George Mason
J29 at James Madison
F2 UNC-Wilmington
F8 Va. Commonwealth
F10 at George Mason
F12 East Carolina
F16 at American
F19 at William & Mary
F23 Old Dominion
F26 at Va. Commonwlth

George Mason
N19 at Toledo
N23 at Delaware
N27 Coppin State
D4 at Coastal Carolina
D8 at Penn State
D11-12 Conf. Challenge
D18 American
D21 Drexel
D27 at Maryland
J3 Bucknell
J5 at William & Mary
J8 at James Madison
J10 UNC-Wilmington
J15 Old Dominion
J17 East Carolina
J19 Detroit
J22 at VCU
J26 at Richmond
J29 William & Mary
F2 at Old Dominion
F5 at American
F7 Fairfield
F10 Richmond
F16 Va. Commonwealth
F19 at UNC-Wilmington
F21 at East Carolina
F26 James Madison

American
N20 North Carolina A&T
N22 Catholic University
N27 at Delaware
N29 at Loyola
D4 Wagner
D7 at Marist
D11 Jacksonville
D18 at George Mason
D22 at Estrn. Kentucky
D29 at Ohio State
J5 at James Madison
J8 UNC-Wilmington
J10 Coastal Carolina
J12 at George Wash.
J15 East Carolina
J19 at Old Dominion
J22 at Richmond
J26 William & Mary
J29 at UNC-Wilmington
J31 at East Carolina
F5 George Mason
F10 Old Dominion
F12 James Madison
F16 Richmond
F23 at Va. Commonwlth
F26 at William & Mary
F29 Va. Commonwealth

Va. Commonwealth
N19 Louisville
N26 Delaware
N28 Colorado
N30 Tulane
D5 at Texas A&M
D7 at Mississippi
D11 at Western Kent.
D18 Radford
D21 VMI
D23 at Pittsburgh
D30 Carolina A&T
J5 Old Dominion
J12 William & Mary
J15 James Madison
J19 at UNC-Wilmington
J22 George Mason
J26 East Carolina
J29 at Old Dominion
F2 at James Madison
F5 at William & Mary
F8 at Richmond
F12 UNC-Wilmington
F16 at George Mason
F19 at East Carolina
F23 American
F26 Richmond
F29 at American

William & Mary
N20 Washington Coll.
N22 Virginia Tech
N26-28 United Airlines Tip-Off Tr.
D1 at UNC-Wilmingtn
D4 Hampton
D20 Wofford
D22 Campbell
D29 at Vanderbilt
J2 at Duke
J5 George Mason
J8 at East Carolina
J10 at Winthrop
J12 at Va. Commnwlth
J15 at Richmond
J19 James Madison
J22 Old Dominion
J26 at American
J29 at George Mason
J31 at Navy
F5 Va. Commonwlth
F9 East Carolina
F12 at Old Dominion
F16 at James Madison
F19 Richmond
F23 UNC-Wilimington
F26 American

James Madison
N20 UNC Greensboro
N22 Boston Univ.
N27 East Tenn. State
N29 at Liberty
D1 at Richmond
D4 East Carolina
D9 at East Tenn. State
D11 at Radford
D18 Long Island
D28 St. Peter's
D31 at West Virginia
J2 at Georgetown
J5 American
J8 George Mason
J12 at Old Dominion
J15 at Virginia Commonwealth
J19 at William & Mary
J26 UNC Wilmington
J29 Richmond
F2 Va. Commonwealth
F5 at East Carolina
F7 at UNC Wilmington
F12 at American
F16 William & Mary
F19 Old Dominion
F21 at Towson
F26 George Mason

East Carolina
N19 at Robert Morris
N23 Wis.-Green Bay
N27 at SW Louisiana
D1 Old Dominion
D4 at James Madison
D8 at Appalachian St.
D11 at Evansville
D18 Jacksonville State
D20 West Virginia
D28 Presbyterian College
D31 at Fairfield
J4 Mount St. Mary's
J6 at Belmont
J8 William & Mary
J12 Richmond
J15 at American
J17 at George Mason
J22 UNC Wilmington
J26 at Va. Commonwealth
J31 American
F5 James Madison
F9 at William & Mary
F12 at Richmond
F16 at Old Dominion
F19 Va. Commonwealth
F21 George Mason
F26 at UNC Wilmington

Old Dominion
D1 at East Carolina
D15 at George Mason
D18 UNC-Wilmington
J5 at VCU
J8 Richmond
J12 James Madison
J19 American
J22 at William & Mary
J29 VCU
F2 George Mason
F5 at UNC-Wilmington
F10 at American
F12 William & Mary
F16 East Carolina
F19 at James Madison
F23 at Richmond

Non-conference schedule unavailable at press time.

Metro Atlantic

By Mike Harrington *Buffalo News*

Predictions

1. Siena
2. Iona
3. Loyola (Md.)
4. St. Peter's
5. Marist
6. Fairfield
7. Canisius
8. Niagara
9. Manhattan
10. Rider

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jason Rowe, Loyola (Md.)	5-10	170	Sr.
G	Marcus Faison, Siena	6-5	190	Sr.
F	Tariq Kirksay, Iona	6-6	215	Sr.
F/C	Darren Phillip, Fairfield	6-6	210	Sr.
F	Corey Osinski, Siena	6-7	225	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ricky Bellinger, St. Peter's	6-2	200	Sr.
G	Scott Knapp, Siena	6-3	175	Jr.
F/G	Jermaine Clark, Fairfield	6-5	185	So.
C	Darren Fenn, Canisius	6-10	220	Jr.
F	Jim Cantamessa, Siena	6-8	235	Sr.

Player of the Year

Jason Rowe, G, Loyola (Md.)

Newcomer of the Year

Michael Johnson, G, Manhattan

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Scott Knapp, Siena
Best rebounder: Darren Phillip, Fairfield
Best playmaker: Jason Rowe, Loyola (Md.)
Best defender: Kalief Allen, St. Peter's
Best leaper: Marcus Faison, Siena
Most versatile: Tariq Kirksay, Iona
Most flamboyant: Jim Cantamessa, Siena
Best NBA prospect: Jason Rowe, Loyola (Md.)

RANK 17

1 SIENA
National Rank: 54

Coach: Paul Hewitt (42-18, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 25-6. MAAC: 13-5/1st. Lost in NCAA West 1st round to Arkansas.
Starters lost: Melvin Freeny, G (8.7 ppg; 4.3 apg; 35.6 FG%).
Others lost: Brandon Fields, F (8.6 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 1.0 apg; 50 FG%).
Starters returning: Marcus Faison, G (14.7 ppg; 5.8 rpg; 1.7 apg; 53.3 FG%); Corey Osinski, F (14.1 ppg; 5.8 rpg; 53.3 FG%); Jim Cantamessa, F (11.5 ppg; 5.2 rpg; 1.9 apg; 42.4 FG%).
Other returnees: Scott Knapp, G (11.1 ppg; 4.1 apg; 42.1 FG%); Dwayne Archbold, G (7.0 ppg; 1.4 apg; 42.0 FG%); Dave Deters, C (5.3 ppg; 44.4 FG%); Dale Taylor, F (2.1 ppg; 53.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Prosper Karangwa, G, 6-6/Fr.; Mike Buhrman, F, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: Hewitt's club is loaded. Few teams in the nation can run and gun with the Saints, who were third in Division I in scoring at 86.9 points (behind Duke and TCU) and the leaders in free-throw percentage (78.9). Osinski was the MAAC's most improved player, while Cantamessa is tough inside and can dominate from the perimeter. Faison is one of the conference's most complete players, as comfortable above the rim as he is from beyond the arc. Opponents try to limit Faison but rarely find much success. Knapp and Archbold will fill in for the graduated Freeny at point. Knapp, a sensational 3-point shooter, saw much of the time there when Freeny was sidelined by illness. This is the year that a 25-win season and NCAA berth are expected. Anything but another MAAC title will be a huge disappointment.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Pepsi Arena (15,800).

2 IONA
National Rank: 83

Coach: Jeff Ruland (16-14, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 16-14. MAAC: 12-6/3rd.
Starters lost: Kashif Hameed, C (13.7 ppg; 6.2 rpg; 46.6 FG%; 2.3 bpg).
Others lost: Steve Armistead, G (6.0 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 38.0 FG%); Javar Cheatham, G (2.1 ppg; 45.2 FG%); Jamal Dunmore, F (2.9 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 50.7 FG%).
Starters returning: Phil Grant, G (9.4 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 39.9 FG%); Tariq Kirksay, G (13.8 ppg; 8.6 rpg; 50.5 FG%; 72.7 FT%; 1.4 spg); Dyree Wilson, F (9.1 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 45.4 FG%); Jason Young, G (6.6 ppg; 34.6 3PT%).
Other returnees: Ivo Kresta, F (6.2 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 39.9 FG%); Nakiea Miller, C (7.5 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 53.8 FG%; 1.7 bpg); Leland Norris, G (5.1 ppg; 41.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Maceo Wofford, G, 5-10/Fr.; Leland Matthews, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Jermaine Small, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: In Ruland's first year as coach, his team was one of the MAAC's biggest disappointments. Ragged guard play and an unusually poor home record (5-6) were the big culprits that culminated in a first-round conference tournament loss to Marist, but the Gaels have the resources to make a quick turnaround. They will rely heavily on Kirksay, who has developed into one of the conference's stars. Grant and Miller were inconsistent at times but had plenty of good moments. The guard play won't be as troublesome this year, now that Wilson and Norris have a year of experience and Wofford is on the scene. The Gaels should be improved from 3-point land.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Rochelle, N.Y. **Home court:** Mulcahy Campus Center (3,200).

3 LOYOLA (MD.)
National Rank: 97

Coach: Dino Gaudio (25-31, 2 years; 61-103, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 13-15. MAAC: 6-12/9th.
Starters lost: Rod Platt, C (12.5 ppg; 8.2 rpg; 2.1 apg; 54.0 FG%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Jason Rowe, G (21.9 ppg; 4.9 rpg; 5.8 apg; 50.5 FG%; 3.4 spg; 78.7 FT%; 36.0 3PT%); Anthony Walker, G (6.2 ppg; 40.5 FG%; 38.5 3PT%); Brian Carroll, F (7.5 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 1.2 apg; 47.9 FG%; 1.7 bpg); Blanchard Hurd, F (12.1 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 1.2 apg; 57.6 FG%).
Other returnees: Clifford Strong, F (7.8 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 1.1 apg; 46.7 FG%); Damien Jenifer, G (5.9 ppg; 1.9 apg; 40.2 FG%); Ryan Blosser, G (3.8 ppg; 1.2 apg; 38.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Ronnie Parmer, C, 6-11/Fr.; Delonnie Southall, F, 6-8/Fr.; Donovan Thomas, F, 6-7/Fr.
Outlook: After two straight disappointing years, Gaudio's job status rates as the MAAC's most tenuous. Hurd returned from two years off (injuries, academics) to lead the MAAC in field-goal percentage, and Strong contributed as a freshman, showing promise on the frontcourt. Platt graduated, but Gaudio has brought in plenty of reinforcements, led by Parmer. Jenifer and Walker complemented Rowe, who led the conference in steals and assists and was second in scoring, at guard as freshmen and will offer even more as sophomores. A one-point loss kept Loyola out of the MAAC semifinals, and they should get at least that far this year.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Reitz Arena (3,000).

4 ST. PETER'S
National Rank: 137

Coach: Rodger Blind (50-61, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 14-15. MAAC: 11-7/4th.
Starters lost: Jake Holmes, C (7.5 ppg; 8.5 rpg; 1.4 apg; 47.1 FG%; 1.5 bpg); Jamar Hunter, G (15.0 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 3.2 apg; 47.1 FG%; 42.4 3PT%).
Others lost: Rich Brown, F (3.8 ppg; 48.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Kaliet Allen, G (7.2 ppg; 3.4 apg; 44.7 FG%); Ricky Bellinger, G (16.1 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 2.1 apg; 41.3 FG%; 75.8 FT%; 2.1 spg).; Kamaal McQueen, F (10.6 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 1.0 apg; 53.7 FG%).
Other returnees: Jermaine Johnson, C (2.7 ppg; 37.9 FG%); Antoine Orr, G (2.3 ppg; 35.7 FG%); Rodney Rodgers, F (4.8 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 1.3 apg; 46.2 FG%); Keith Sellers, F (4.3 ppg; 36.4 FG%); Damian Spencer, F (3.7 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 2.3 apg; 41.4 FG%).
Top newcomers: Ryan Johnson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Andrew Wisniewski, G, 6-2/Fr.
Outlook: The Peacocks went from last place to the MAAC title game, it may be too much to expect that again, but the team still prompts nerves in opposing locker rooms. Bellinger rates as the MAAC's truest no-conscience gunner and is trouble to the opposition when he gets hot. The graduations of Hunter and Holmes, however, will make Bellinger's life tougher unless someone else becomes a weapon. The Peacocks will struggle to score most nights, especially if Bellinger is off his game. McQueen will need some help in the frontcourt with Holmes gone. .
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Jersey City, N.J. **Home court:** Yanitelli Center (3,200).

5 MARIST
National Rank: 160

Coach: Dave Magarity (184-185, 13 years; 244-261, 18 years).
1998-99 record: 16-12. MAAC: 8-10/6th.
Starters lost: Bobby Joe Hatton, G (14.7 ppg; 5.4 apg; 44.9 FG%; 1.9 spg); Bo Larragan, G (11.3 ppg; 3.9 apg; 37.8 FG%; 83.5 FT%; 40.5 3PT%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Tomasz Cielebak, F (10.2 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 45.9 FG%); Tom Kenney, C (10.1 ppg; 6.5 rpg; 56.7 FG%; 74.0 FT%; 1.6 bpg); Joe McCurdy, F (9.2 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 1.3 apg; 46.4 FG%).
Other returnees: Drew Samuels, F (7.9 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 48.5 FG%); Rick Smith, G (5.5 ppg; 34.0 FG%); Jason Hastings, F (4.2 ppg; 58.4 FG%); Sean Kennedy, G (2.8 ppg; 2.4 apg; 49.0 FG%); Steve Grant, C, 6-9/Jr. (RS/shoulder).
Top newcomers: Nick Eppehimer, G, 6-7/Fr.; Blake Sonne, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Marist has an athletic frontcourt and two guards ready to fill the shoes of Hatton and Larragan. When Cielebak was on the floor, he combined with Kenney and McCurdy to provide many matchup problems for opponents. Magarity was thinking to the future when he made sure guards Kennedy and Smith saw plenty of court time. That will pay off. Marist will be good again defensively, but the scoring will suffer early as the transition to new guards takes place. After that, it will be a question of who becomes the No. 1 option.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Home court:** McCann Center (3,944).

6 FAIRFIELD
National Rank: 187

Coach: Tim O'Toole (12-15, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 12-15. MAAC: 7-11/8th.
Starters lost: Didier Boucard, F (14.1 ppg; 8.0 rpg; 1.1 apg; 52.8 FG%; 2.2 bpg); Kyle Commodore, G (8.4 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 3.7 apg; 28.9 FG%; 2.7 spg).
Others lost: Mike Horan, C (25.0 FG%); Matt Smith, C (42.9 FG%).
Starters returning: Jermaine Clark, G (16.0 ppg; 3.0 rpg; 2.5 apg; 36.0 FG%); Charles Farrow, G (7.0 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 3.4 apg; 37.7 FG%); Darren Phillip, F (16.7 ppg; 9.9 rpg; 1.1 apg; 56.3 FG%).
Other returnees: Andy Buzbee, F (6.4 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 1.1 apg; 38.3 FG%); Sunday Eniojukan, C (2.0 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 43.2 FG%); Chris Rivers, F (7.0 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 47.7 FG%); Leroy Robertson, G, 6-3/So. (RS/ankle).
Top newcomers: Jeremy Logan, F, 6-5/Fr.; Nick Delfico, F, 6-5/Fr.; Mark Price, G, 6-1/Fr.; Sam Spann, F, 6-5/So. (transfer, Syracuse).
Outlook: O'Toole provided an energy quotient the Stags were missing, and Fairfield seems ready to continue its climb up the standings. The Stags already have the MAAC's best rebounder (Phillip) and top rookie from last season (Clark). They'll see the return of guard Robertson, a medical redshirt due to a broken foot, and the addition of a good recruiting class. A return trip above the .500 mark is a good bet. To contend for a conference title, Fairfield must tighten its defense, which was the worst in the MAAC.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (2,479).

7 CANISIUS
National Rank: 225

Coach: Mike MacDonald (28-26, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 15-12. MAAC: 11-7/4th.
Starters lost: Jamie Cammaert, F (13.3 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 2.6 apg; 50.2 FG%; 37.9 3PT%); Kevin Worley, G (11.4 ppg; 3.9 apg; 45.0 FG%; 87.2 FT%; 48.6 3PT%); Keith Lambkin, F (13.8 ppg; 6.4 rpg; 2.7 apg; 43.5 FG%; 78 FG%; 40.0 3PT%)
Others lost: Andre Jackson, F (37.5 FG%).
Starters returning: Clive Bentick, G (4.9 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 3.4 apg; 29.5 FG%); Darren Fenn, C (12.0 ppg; 6.6 rpg; 51.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Alex Barnhill, F (1.4 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 35.1 FG%); Andrew Bush, C (1.2 ppg; 35.0 FG%); Dorian McClure, G (6.5 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.1 apg; 35.3 FG%); Dale Sawyers, F (6.9 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 59.2 FG%); Matt Tribul, C (1.2 rpg; 33.3 FG%); Damon Young, G, 6-1/So. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Brian Dux, G, 6-2/Fr.; Toby Foster, F, 6-6/Fr.; Hodari Mallory, G, 6-3/Fr.
Outlook: The graduations of Cammaert and Lambkin will force MacDonald to move to a post-oriented attack featuring Fenn, who has the potential to be a dominant pivot man in the MAAC. Sawyers will finally get his first full-time duty at power forward, while Bentick and McClure return in the backcourt. Several newcomers could contribute immediately. Inexperience and lack of team chemistry at the start could be troublesome. Canisius has the MAAC's best conference record over the last six years (59-33) but will be hard-pressed to be in the top half of the league.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996 (tie).
Site: Buffalo. **Home court:** Demske Sports Complex (18,400).

8 NIAGARA
National Rank: 278

Coach: Joe Mihalich (17-12, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 17-12. MAAC: 13-5/1st.
Starters lost: Alvin Young, G (25.1 ppg; 5.8 rpg; 2.4 apg; 47.3 FG%; 78.9 FT%; 2.5 spg; 40.6 3PT%); Jeremiah Johnson, G (15.9 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 5.0 apg; 34.5 FG%; 2.2 spg); Mike Piwerka, F (7.3 ppg; 7.1 rpg; 41.5 FG%).
Others lost: Kevin Jobity, F (16.1 ppg; 7.7 rpg; 50.6 FG%).
Starters returning: Terry Edwards, F (9.3 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 1.4 apg; 42.8 FG%); Danny Amponsah, F (1.6 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 38.6 FG%).
Other returnees: Daryl Greene, G (4.6 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 1.5 apg; 43.5 FG%); Luke Dobrich, G (3.6 ppg; 35.7 FG%); Peter Strobl, F (2.0 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 37.2 FG%); Mike Byrne, G (50.0 FG%); Christos Defoudis, F (2.5 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 42.9 FG%); Nate Bernosky, G (6.0 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 51.0 FG%; 48.8 3PT%); Demond Stewart, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).
Top newcomers: Rhossi Carron, G, 5-10/Fr.; Shey Cohen, F, 6-8/So. (JC); Paul de Wet, F, 6-10/Fr.; Luis Villafane, F, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: After graduating five seniors—including Division I scoring leader Young—from the MAAC's regular-season champions, Mihalich is starting over. In the frontcourt, incumbents such as Bernosky and Edwards will be looked upon to score at the start of the year, and newcomers such as Villafane could develop as the season moves along. Mihalich is likely to be at least a year from returning to postseason contention. But no one will have an easy time visiting—the Purple Eagles were 10-0 at home.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Niagara, N.Y. **Home court:** Marine Midland Arena (19,500).

9 MANHATTAN
National Rank: 283

Coach: Bobby Gonzalez (first year).
1998-99 record: 5-22. MAAC: 3-15/10th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Kyle Crandall, C (2.2 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 43.2 FG%); Kyle Dye, G (4.7 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 1.2 apg; 43.3 FG%).
Starters returning: Durelle Brown, F (13.9 ppg; 5.7 rpg; 1.2 apg; 55.2 FG%); Ken Kavanagh, F (14.5 ppg; 8.3 rpg; 2.4 apg; 48.9 FG%); Mars Mellish, G (9.1 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 1.3 apg; 33.9 FG%).
Other returnees: Phil Lane, G (6.9 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 4.2 apg; 32.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Aeneas Middleton, G, 6-5/Fr.; Bruce Seals, F, 6-5/Fr.; Justin Jackette, F, 6-2/So. (Prop 48); Michael Johnson, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Gonzalez took the junior-college and prep school route. Point guard Johnson heads that list and should be one of the MAAC's best first-year players. Gonzalez already has a lot to work with up front. Kavanagh and Brown should continue to be key offensive weapons, and Murray also developed. But the Jaspers were the MAAC's worst-shooting and lowest-scoring team, figures largely related to their 20 turnovers per game. Those numbers have to improve dramatically Manhattan can contend.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Riverdale, N.Y. **Home court:** Draddy Gym (3,000).

10 RIDER
National Rank: 286

Coach: Don Harnum (30-26, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 12-16. MAAC: 7-11/8th.
Starters lost: Kevin McPeek, F (12.3 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 54.8 FG%); Greg Burston, G (15.1 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 3.0 apg; 46.0 FG%; 42.7 3PT%; 1.1 spg); Ken Lacey, C (13.0 ppg; 7.7 rpg; 1.0 apg; 51.8 FG%); Kevin Pinefrock, G (10.1 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 3.8 apg; 41.7 FG%; 82.2 FT%; 41.7 3PT%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Michael Crawford, G (7.5 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 3.0 apg; 35.8 FG%; 81.2 FT%).
Other returnees: Jon McClark, F (5.5 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 1.1 apg; 48.3 FG%); Mario Porter, F (5.5 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 48.8 FG%); R.J. Wicks, G (2.1 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 1.7 apg; 37.5 FG%); Dave Hutchinson, G (5.2 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 36.8 FG%); Mike Scott, G (4.7 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 42.9 FG%).
Top newcomers: Alexander Iseghohi, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Mike Wilson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Alwyn Curtis, G, 6-3/Fr.; Robert Reed, C, 6-10/Fr.; Brandon Wahlmann, F, 6-9/Fr.; Howard Williams, G, 6-4/Fr.; Bobby Lynch, G, 6-2/Fr.
Outlook: Rider has to undergo complete rebuilding after experiencing heavy graduation losses, plus the decision of Lacey to leave school early for pro ball in Europe. Reed and forwards Porter and Hutchinson are the best bets on a woefully inexperienced frontcourt. The biggest news will come off the court as Rider plays some of its home schedule at the new Mercer County Arena in Trenton, N.J. But there won't be much to cheer about on the court.
Last league title: 1994 (Northeast).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lawrenceville, N.J. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (1,650).

Metro Atlantic Schedules

Canisius
N20-21 Conference Charity Classic
N23 at Colgate
N27 Buffalo
D2 at Niagara
D5 Fairfield
D7 at Duquesne
D11 St. Bonaventure
D22 at Loyola (IL)
D27-28 Indiana Tournament
J3 at Rider
J5 at Loyola (MD)
J8 Iona
J12 Marist
J15 at Siena
J17 at Marist
J21 at Fairfield
J29 Siena
J31 Manhattan
F4at Iona
F6 at St. Peter's
F9 Xavier
F13 Rider
F15 Niagara
F18 at Manhattan
F25 St. Peter's
F27 Loyola (MD)

Fairfield
N19 at Kansas
N21 at UNLV
N23 at UCLA
N29 Fordham
D2 Iona
D5 at Canisius
D11 at Central Conn. St.
D23 at Connecticut
D28-29 Fairfield Tournament
J5 at Marist
J8 Siena
J15 at St. Peter's
J18 Loyola (MD)
J21 Canisius
J23 Niagara
J26 at Manhattan
J30 at Iona
F2 at St. Peter's
F5 at Rider
F7 at George Mason
F11 Marist
F13 at Niagara
F18 at Loyola (MD)
F20 Manhattan
F24 at Siena
F26 Rider

Iona
N20 Massachusetts
N23 Coppin St.
N27 at UCLA
D2 at Fairfield
D5 Marist
D11 Fordham
D19 at Hofstra
D23 at St. Francis (NY)
D30 at Boston College
J5 St. Peter's
J8 at Canisius
J10 at Niagara
J13 Rider
J15 Loyola (MD)
J17 at Bucknell
J19 at Morgan St.
J24 at Siena
J28 at St. Peter's
J30 Fairfield
F1 at Marist
F4 Canisius
F6 Niagara
F11 Manhattan
F16 at Loyola (MD)
F19 Siena
F21 at Rider
F26 at Manhattan

Loyola (MD)
N19-20 Battle of Baltimore
N24 at Penn St.
N27 St. Francis (PA)
N29 American
D3 at Marist
D5 Rider
D8 at Virginia
D18 at Mount St. Mary's
J5 Canisius
J8 at St. Peter's
J13 Manhattan
J15 at Iona
J18 at Fairfield
J21 Siena
J25 SUNY Stony Brook
J28 Marist
J30 at Rider
F4 Niagara
F6 at Manhattan
F10 at Siena
F13 St. Peter's
F16 Iona
F18 Fairfield
F25 at Niagara
F27 at Canisius

Manhattan
N30 at Buffalo
D2 at St. Peter's
D5 Niagara
D8 at Fordham
D13 Lehigh
D19 Fairleigh Dickinson
D28-29 Sun Devil Classic
J2 at Army
J6 at Siena
J8 Marist
J13 at Loyola (MD)
J16 at Rider
J18 St. Peter's
J23 Rider
J26 Fairfield
J29 at Niagara
J31 at Canisius
F4 Siena
F6 Loyola (MD)
F11 at Iona
F18 Canisius
F20 at Fairfield
F24 at Marist
F26 Iona

Marist
N19-20 Pepsi Marist Classic
N27 at Middle Tenn. State
N30 at Harvard
D3 Loyola (MD)
D5 at Iona
D7 American
D9 at Army
D12 at Georgetown
D22 at Western Mich.
D30 Richmond
J5 Fairfield
J8 at Manhattan
J12 at Canisius
J14 at Niagara
J17 Canisius
J20 at Rider
J23 St. Peter's
J28 at Loyola (MD)
F1 Iona
F3 Rider
F11 at Fairfield
F13 at Siena
F18 at St. Peter's
F20 Niagara
F24 Manhattan
F27 Siena

Niagara
N19 at Buffalo
N28 at SUNY Albany
D2 Canisius
D5 at Manhattan
D8 at St. Francis (PA)
D11 St. John's
D14 Youngstown St.
D19 Md.-Eastern Shore
D28 at Texas
J3 at St. Bonaventure
J8 Colgate
J10 Iona
J14 Marist
J17 at Siena
J21 at St. Peter's
J23 at Fairfield
J29 Manhattan
J31 Siena
F4 at Loyola (MD)
F6 at Iona
F11 Rider
F13 Fairfield
F15 at Canisius
F18 at Rider
F20 at Marist
F25 Loyola (MD)
F27 St. Peter's

Rider
N20 Rutgers
N23 Sacred Heart
N27 Bucknell
N29 Delaware
D2 Siena
D5 at Loyola (MD)
D11-12 Conference Challenge
D18 at Monmouth
D22 at Notre Dame
D30 Fairleigh Dickinson
J3 Canisius
J7 at SUNY Stony Brook
J10 at St. Peter's
J13 at Iona
J16 Manhattan
J20 Marist
J23 at Manhattan
J27 at Siena
J30 Loyola (MD)
F3 at Marist
F5 Fairfield
F8 St. Peter's
F11 at Niagara
F13 at Canisius
F18 Niagara
F21 Iona
F26 at Fairfield

St. Peter's
N20 Charleston Southern
N23 Radford
N29 at Seton Hall
D2 Manhattan
D4 at Siena
D8 at Northeastern
D11 at Lafayette
D18 Wagner
D22 Monmouth
D28 at James Madison
D31 at Notre Dame
J2 at Michigan
J5 at Iona
J8 Loyola (MD)
J10 Rider
J15 Fairfield
J18 at Manhattan
J21 Niagara
J23 at Marist
J28 Iona
F2 at Fairfield
F6 Canisius
F8 at Rider
F13 at Loyola (MD)
F18 Marist
F21 Siena
F25 at Canisius
F27 at Niagara

Siena
N16 Davidson
N22 Hartford
N28 Bethune-Cookman
D2 at Rider
D4 St. Peter's
D8 Colgate
D11 at George Washington
D27-28 ECAC Holiday Festival
J2 at Southwestern La.
J6 Manhattan
J8 at Fairfield
J11 Rhode Island
J15 Canisius
J17 Niagara
J21 at Loyola (MD)
J24 Iona
J27 Rider
J29 at Canisius
J31 at Niagara
F4 at Manhattan
F10 Loyola (MD)
F13 Marist
F19 at Iona
F21 at St. Peter's
F24 Fairfield
F27 at Marist

Mid-American

By Doug Zaleski *Muncie (Ind.) Star Press*

Predictions

East Division	West Division
1. Akron	1. Toledo
2. Kent	2. Ball State
3. Bowling Green	3. Central Michigan
4. Marshall	4. Northern Illinois
5. Ohio	5. Western Michigan
6. Miami (Ohio)	6. Eastern Michigan
7. Buffalo	

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jami Bosley, Akron	6-0	220	Sr.
G	Duane Clemens, Ball State	6-0	170	Sr.
C/F	T.J. Lux, Northern Illinois	6-9	245	Sr.
F	Anthony Stacey, Bowling Green	6-4	235	Sr.
F	Shaun Stonerook, Ohio	6-8	230	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Jimmal Ball, Akron	5-10	174	Sr.
G	Travis Young, Marshall	6-0	190	Jr.
C	John Whorton, Kent	6-8	250	Sr.
F/C	J.R. VanHoose, Marshall	6-9	210	So.
F	Greg Stempin, Toledo	6-8	202	Jr.

Player of the Year

Jami Bosley, G, Akron

Newcomer of the Year

Theron Smith, F, Ball State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jami Bosley, Akron
Best rebounder: T.J. Lux, Northern Illinois
Best playmaker: Cornelius Jackson, Marshall
Best defender: Duane Clemens, Ball State
Best leaper: Kyrem Massey, Kent
Most versatile: Sanjay Adell, Ohio
Most flamboyant: Derrick Wright, Marshall
Best NBA prospect: T.J. Lux, Northern Illinois

RANK 12

EAST DIVISION

1 AKRON
National Rank: 41

Coach: Dan Hipsher (46-61, 4 years; 172-105, 10 years).
1998-99 record: 18-9. MAC East: 12-6/4th.
Starters lost: Jawanza Moore, F (7.2 ppg; 5.3 rpg; 2.0 apg; 56 FG%).
Others lost: Adam Benton, G (1.4 ppg; 36.8 FG%); Ali Kart, G (0.3 ppg; 0.4 rpg); Cornell Felton, G (2.5 ppg; 47.1 FG%).
Starters returning: Ryan Andrick, F (14.0 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 1.5 apg; 51.8 FG%); Jimmal Ball, G (14.2 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 3.6 apg; 39.9 FG%); Jami Bosley, G (18.6 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 3.9 apg; 45.6 FG%; 86.1 FT%; 41.8 3PT%); Bruce Weinkein, C (7.9 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 54.9 FG%; 76.6 FT%).
Other returnees: George Phillips, F (medical redshirt); David Falknor, F (6.4 ppg; 1.2 rpg; 40.4 FG%); Nate Schindewolf, G (4.2 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 1.3 apg; 39.6 FG%); Kirene Johnson, F (1.7 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 31.8 FG%); Andy Norman, G (1.0 ppg; 50 FG%).
Top newcomers: Byron Thompson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Emmanuel Smith, G , 6-2/Fr.; Andy Hipsher, G, 6-8/Fr.; John Carson, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer); Marco Morgan, F, 6-9/So. (transfer).
Outlook: The Zips are well-stocked for a run at the MAC championship, with three players back who earned all-conference honors: first-team guard Bosley, second-team guard Ball and honorable-mention forward Andrick. Bosley and Ball form the MAC's top guard tandem. They combined to average 32.8 points per game and led Akron in scoring in 21 of 27 games. Andrick is a tireless inside banger who was the team's unsung hero.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Akron, Ohio. **Home court:** Rhodes Arena (5,942).

2 KENT
National Rank: 84

Coach: Gary Waters (45-42, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 23-7. MAC East: 13-5/2nd. Lost to Temple in NCAA Midwest 1st round.
Starters lost: John Callaway, G (4.3 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 1.3 apg: 31.9 FG%; 1.6 spg); Ed Norvell, G (6.8 ppg; 3.0 rpg; 4.4 apg; 37.3 FG%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Kyrem Massey, G (11.0 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 46.2 FG%; 80.0 FT%); Andrew Mitchell, G (8.7 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 2.6 apg; 35.5 FG%; 74.4 FT%); John Whorton, C (12.8 ppg; 6.2 rpg; 1.1 apg; 57.4 FG%; 1.1 bpg).
Other returnees: Trevor Huffman, G (8.9 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 2.3 apg; 46.2 FG%; 78.8 FT%; 40.5 3PT%); Nate Meers, G (8.1 ppg; 1.7 rpg; 1.3 apg; 40.3 FG%; 42.6 3PT%); Geoffrey Vaughn, F (4.7 ppg; 2.1 rpg; 62.1 FG%); Rashaun Warren, F (4.1 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 61.1 FG%); Eric Thomas, F (3.4 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 47.2 FG%); Al Moore, G (1.2 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 2.6 FG%); Ryan Lehrke, G (1.1 ppg; 39.1 FG%); Mike Perry, F, 6-9/So. (redshirt).
Top newcomers: John Edwards, C, 7-0/Fr.; Blake Johnson, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Demetric Shaw, G, 6-3/So. (transfer, Tulane).
Outlook: After posting losing records in seven of the previous eight seasons, Kent enjoyed a breakout season last year by going 23-7, winning the MAC Tournament and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time. The Golden Flashes don't see last year's success as an aberration. Although the long term is always a subjective matter, the short term looks good. Strong depth punctuates this year's team.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Kent, Ohio. **Home court:** M.A.C. Center (6,327).

3 BOWLING GREEN
National Rank: 103

Coach: Dan Dakich (28-26, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 18-10. MAC East: 12-6/T3rd.
Starters lost: Kirk Cowan, C (9.5 ppg; 5.2 rpg; 65.8 FG%); DeMar Moore, G (8.0 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 4.0 apg; 40.1 FG%).
Others lost: Javier Crespo, F (0.0 ppg; 0.7 rpg); Dave Furlin, G (21.4 FG%); Tony Reid, G (8.8 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 87.0 FT%; 36.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Dave Esterkamp, F (8.0 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 42.9 FG%); Keith McLeod, G (12.4 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 2.9 apg; 78.6 FT%; 39.4 FG%); Anthony Stacey, F (18.5 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 1.8 apg; 50.0 FG%; 2.3 spg; 76.3 FT%; 44.1 3PT%).
Other returnees: Dubrey Black, G (3.0 ppg; 1.2 rpg; 46.7 FG%); Graham Bunn, G (4.3 ppg; 1.2 rpg; 39.0 FG%); Trent Jackson, G (2.4 ppg, 1.3 rpg; 32.6 FG%); Brent Klassen, C (1.7 ppg; 46.7 FG%); Len Matela, C (12.4 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 2.9 apg; 54.0 FG%).
Top newcomers: Seth Doliboa, G, 6-7/Fr.; Kevin Netter, C, 6-10/Fr.; Cory Ryan, G, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: Stacey, who is on pace to become Bowling Green's career scoring and steals leader, is the centerpiece for a team that ended last season with seven wins in its last nine games. McLeod, Brandon Pardon (eligible December 18), Bunn, Black and Jackson give the Falcons experience, depth and several playing style combinations in the backcourt.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1968.
Site: Bowling Green, Ohio. **Home court:** Anderson Arena (5,000).

4 MARSHALL
National Rank: 150

Coach: Greg White (47-36, 3 years; 166-190, 13 years.
1998-99 record: 16-11. MAC East: 11-7/5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Vince Carafelli, F (2.2 ppg; 71.4 FG%); VonDale Morton, F (4.6 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 44.9 FG%); Carlton King, F (7.7 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 1.2 apg; 39.8 FG%; 78.8 FT%).
Starters returning: Derrick Wright, F (4.8 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 44.7 FG%; 1.4 bpg); Tamar Slay, F (6.0 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 1.3 apg; 37.3 FG%); J.R. VanHoose, C (14.7 ppg; 8.1 rpg; 1.0 apg; 59.4 FG%; 74.6 FT%); Travis Young, G (13.9 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 3.5 apg; 46.8 FG%; 78.9 FT%; 39.0 3PT%; 1.6 spg); Cornelius Jackson, G (10.4 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 5.4 apg; 44.5 FG%; 39.6 3PT%).
Other returnees: Terrell McKelvy, F (7.1 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 0.6 apg; 50.4 FG%); Joda Burgess, G (5.8 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 1.1 apg; 37.8 FG%).
Top newcomers: Jon Bentley, F, 6-8/Fr.; Monty Wright, G, 6-4/So. (Prop 48); William Butler, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Marques Evans, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Sean Wuller, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Thundering Herd return all five starters for the second straight year. Marshall has one of the MAC's best and quickest backcourts in point guard Jackson and point guard-turned-shooting guard Young. Burgess is a 3-point threat who must be taken seriously.
Last league title: 1995 (Southern).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Huntington, W. Va. **Home court:** Henderson Center (9,043).

5 OHIO
National Rank: 213

Coach: Larry Hunter (165-124, 10 years; 470-200, 23 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 18-10. MAC East: 12-6/T3rd.
Starters lost: Diante Flenorl, C (9.9 ppg; 6.2 rpg; 1.8 apg; 48.4 FG%); LaDrell Whitehead, G (18.9 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 3.1 apg; 40.0 FG%; 1.6 spg; 80.5 FT%).
Others lost: Nick Terry, C (1.8 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 61.9 FG%);

More on the Mid-American at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

Jeremy Thrapp, F (1.3 ppg; 40.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Sanjay Adell, G (15.9 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 1.9 apg; 49.3 FG%; 41.8 3PT%); Dustin Ford, G (5.5 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 1.8 apg; 36.1 FG%; 79.5 FT%); Shaun Stonerook, F (13.6 ppg; 9.1 rpg; 3.6 apg; 48.4 FG%; 2.1 spg).
Other returnees: Patrick Flomo, F (5.4 ppg; 4.2 rpg; 66.7 FG%); Corey Reed, G (3.7 ppg; 1.9 rpg; 2.1 apg; 43.0 FG%); Jason Crawford, G (1.4 ppg; 36.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Steve Esterkamp, G, 6-6/Fr.; Adam Howell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brandon Hunter, F, 6-7/Fr.; Anthony Jones, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Jon Sanderson, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer, Ohio State); Shaun McVicker, C, 6-9/So. (transfer, Charleston).
Outlook: The Bobcats will build their attack around co-MVPs Adell and Stonerook. Adell is a 6-6 swingman who can cause matchup problems. Stonerook was an immediate success after transferring from Ohio State.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Athens, Ohio. **Home court:** The Convocation Center (13,000).

6 MIAMI (OHIO)
National Rank: 222

Coach: Charlie Coles (62-29, 3 years; 154-113, 9 years; 2-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 24-8. MAC East: 15-3/1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest 3rd round.
Starters lost: Wally Szczerbiak, F (24.2 ppg; 8.5 rpg; 1.2 bpg; 83.3 FT%; 38.8 3PT%; 2.9 apg; 52.2 FG%); Damon Frierson, G (13.0 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 85.7 FT%; 3.3 apg; 40.3 FG%); John Estick, C (8.3 ppg; 6.2 rpg; 54.5 FG%).
Others lost: Jay Locklier, C (transferred).
Starters returning: Rob Mestas, G (6.9 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 37.7 3PT%; 3.4 apg; 37.8 FG%); Jason Stewart, F (6.1 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 35.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Mike Ensminger, F (37.0 FG%); Jason Grunkemeyer, G (3.8 ppg; 54.8 FG%; 52.9 3PT%); Refiloe Lethunya, F (2.7 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 47.1 FG%); Anthony Taylor, G (3.9 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 1.2 apg; 30.1 FG%); Brian Edwards, F, 6-7/So. (redshirt).
Top newcomers: Bryan Reed, F, 6-6/Fr; Doug Williams, F, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: What's left is a collection of players with little identity. They were role players the last two years as Szczerbiak and Frierson defined Miami basketball. Point guard Mestas has the experience of starting 25 games. Swingman Stewart and guard Taylor showed flashes of being high-quality players.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA Tournament: 1998.
Site: Oxford, Ohio. **Home court:** Millett Hall (9,200).

7 BUFFALO
National Rank: 251

Coach: Tim Cohane (78-90, 6 years; 222-235, 17 years).
1998-99 record: 5-24. MAC East: 1-17/7th.
Starters lost: Ryan Peterson, G (2.3 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 4.3 apg; 22.0 FG%); Will Campbell, F (7.7 ppg; 5.7 rpg; 2.1 apg; 38.4 FG%).
Others lost: Nate Johnson, C (3.6 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 40.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Louis Campbell, G (12.4 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 1.5 spg; 2.1 apg; 44.0 FG%); Nikolai Alexeev, C (9.0 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 36.0 FG%; 78.3 FT%); Alexei Vasiliev, G (8.6 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 2.3 apg; 32.8 FG%; 1.6 spg).
Other returnees: Maliso Libomi, F (6.2 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 48.6 FG%); Jon Kleidon, F (3.1 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 32.1 FG%).
Top newcomers: Ryan Chaffe, G, 5-7/Fr.; Mike McKie, F, 6-8/So. (Prop 48); Clement Smith, F, 6-7/So. (Prop 48); Khalid Coursey, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Kerry Hendrickson, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Rick Fox, F, 6-8/So. (JC); Damien Foster, G, 6-5/Jr. (transfer, Boston College).
Outlook: Campbell was the Bulls' most consistent scorer, averaging 12.4 points per game. He can be effective as an outside shooter, but his strongest asset is as a slasher to the basket. Point guards Coursey and Chaffe and shooting guards Foster and Hendrickson are players who could help the Bulls increase their overall athleticism.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Buffalo, N.Y. **Home court:** Alumni Arena (8,500).

WEST DIVISION

1 TOLEDO
National Rank: 55

Coach: Stan Joplin (47-35, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 19-9. MAC West: 11-7/1st. Lost to Xavier in NIT first round.
Starters lost: Brett Fedak, F (8.4 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 1.9 apg; 58.1 FG%; 75.7 FT%); Robert Kizer, F (5.2 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 1.9 apg; 36.9 FG%); Art Norman, G (12.3 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 1.6 apg; 47.1 FG%; 36.1 3PT%; 73.8 FT%).
Others lost: Rickey Strong, C (4.8 ppg; 2.9 rpg; 49.0 FG%).
Starters returning: Greg Stempin, F (15.3 ppg; 7.4 rpg; 1.2 apg; 51.2 FG%; 64.6 FT%); Chad Kamstra, G (8.3 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 0.9 apg; 36.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Sammy Bacino, G (3.0 ppg; 1.0 rpg; 1.1 apg; 54.5 FG%); Robierre Cullars, F (3.2 ppg; 1.8 rpg; 0.8 apg; 45.5 FG%); Justin Hall, G (11.0 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 2.2 apg; 76.1 FT%; 46.5 FG%; 45.9 3PT%); Bernard Scott, G (1.9 ppg; 1.2 rpg; 0.7 apg; 29.6 FG%).
Top newcomers: Delvar Barrett, C, 6-7/Fr.; Javon Clark, G, 6-0/Fr.; Nick Moore, G, 6-1/Fr.; A.J. Shellabarger, C, 6-9/Fr.; Rory Jones, G 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: It didn't take long for the Rockets to start a youth movement. After losing four key contributors from last season's team, Toledo has one senior on the roster, and eight of its 14 players are freshmen or sophomores. The good news is the talent level is high.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Toledo, Ohio. **Home court:** Savage Hall (9,000).

2 BALL STATE
National Rank: 75

Coach: Ray McCallum (104-67, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-11. MAC West: 10-8/2nd.
Starters lost (2): Wayne Johnson, C (5.6 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 43.7 FG%); Marcus Mason, F (9.4 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 1.5 apg; 38.5 FG%).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Duane Clemens, G (16.3 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 2.0 apg; 37.9 FG%); Mickey Hosier, G (4.7 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 43.5 3PT%; 2.8 apg; 44.2 FG%); Josh Murray, F (5.4 ppg; 5.3 rpg; 0.7 apg; 52.5 FG%).
Other returnees: Brian Burns, C (1.7 ppg; 1.1 rpg; 52.0 FG%); Jerome Davis, F (5.4 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 43 FG%); Shane Franks, G (3.6 ppg; 42.5 FG%); Patrick Jackson, G (4.9 ppg; 1.6 rpg; 1.8 apg; 34.7 FG%); Lonnie Jones, C (3.8 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 0.3 apg; 47.3 FG%); Bill Lynch, G (50 FG%); Cedric Moodie, G (7.1 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 83.3 FT%; 36.8 FG%); Corey Harris, F (redshirt).
Top newcomers: Rob Robbins, G, 6-4/Fr.; Theron Smith, F, 6-8/Fr. Mark Farris, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: The Cardinals have a solid backcourt with All-MAC shooting guard Clemens and a steady, mistake-free point guard in Hosier. Clemens has a knack for scoring inside despite his 6-foot stature. Hosier built one of the MAC's top assist-to-turnover ratios while starting 49 games the last two seasons.
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Muncie, Ind. **Home court:** University Arena (11,500).

3 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
National Rank: 127

Coach: Jay Smith (15-37, 2 years; 38-43, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 10-16. MAC West: 7-11/3rd.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Brent Larson, G (transferred); Ben Feeney, F (transferred).
Starters returning: Jon Borovich, F (2.5 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 2.2 apg; 38.5 FG%); Tim Kisner, G (11.6 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 3.9 apg; 41.5 3PT%; 1.6 spg; 79.8 FT%; 40.9 FG%); Mike Manciel, F (17.5 ppg; 6.4 rpg; 73.0 FT%; 42.5 3PT%; 1.5 apg; 54.8 FG%); Dan Schell, C (9.0 ppg; 5.1 rpg; 42.2 FG%); David Webber, G (9.4 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 2.3 apg; 75.0 FT%; 36.8 FG%).
Other returnees: Rudy Gaytan, C (2.3 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 44.4 FG%); Jamar Hill, G (8.0 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 1.2 apg; 34.9 FG%); Jason Webber, F (6.7 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 40.7 FG%); Derrick Bird, F, 6-4/Fr. (redshirt); Todd Schrotenboer, F, 6-7/Jr. (redshirt).
Top newcomers: T.J. Meerman, G, 6-3/Fr.; J.R. Wallace, G, 6-0/Fr.; Willie Wallace, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: Twelve years have passed since Central Michigan played in a postseason tournament, but the Chippewas are making the right strides. They aren't there yet, but with their top nine players back from last year's team that doubled its victory total from five in '98 to 10 in '99, the pieces are in place for another step forward.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Mt. Pleasant, Mich. **Home court:** Rose Arena (5,200).

4 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
National Rank: 149

Coach: Brian Hammel (103-117, 8 years; 194-187, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 6-20. MAC West: 2-16/6th.
Starters lost: Burton Anderson, F (11.6 ppg; 6.5 rpg; 1.3 apg; 44.3 FG%).
Others lost: Phiffney Dukes, G (1.2 ppg); Jeremy Roach, F (1.1 rpg; 40.0 FG%); LaRoy Thompson, F (0.7 rpg); Andre Williams, F (2.7 ppg; 1.3 rpg; 46.4 FG%).
Starters returning: Mike Brown, G (10.9 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 1.3 apg; 37.6 FG%; 89.2 FT%; 38.5 3PT%); Ephraim Eaddy, G (7.3 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 4.4 apg; 33.0 FG%; 79.8 FT%; 1.4 spg); Matt Nelson, C (3.7 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 38.6 FG%); Rey Jones, G (10.2 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 1.4 apg; 44.5 FG%).
Other returnees: T.J. Lux, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (redshirt); Steve Determan, F (7.6 ppg; 5.3 rpg; 42.6 FG%); Leon Rodgers, F (8.3 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 44.9 FG%); Charlie Ries, F (2.6 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 49.0 FG%); Garrett Thomas, G (2.1 ppg).
Top newcomers: Marcus Jankus, G, 5-11/Fr.; Michael Morrison, C, 6-9/Fr.; Jerry Sanders, F, 6-8/Fr.; Morgan Thompson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Herman Ezell, F, 6-4/So. (Prop 48); Stephen Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Northern Illinois will get Lux back after he redshirted with severe shin splints that caused him to miss all but five games. His return should be an immeasurable boost to the Huskies. Lux is on pace to become

Northern's all-time leader in scoring and rebounding.
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: DeKalb, Ill. **Home court:** Chick Evans Field House (6,044).

5 WESTERN MICHIGAN
National Rank: 230

Coach: Bob Donewald (141-137, 10 years; 348-258, 21 years; 3-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 11-15. MAC West: 6-12/4th.
Starters lost: Shaun Jackson, F (11.1 ppg; 8.5 rpg; 1.1 apg; 50.7 FG%); Kylo Jones, G (14.0 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 1.9 apg; 35.9 FG%; 89.2 FT%).
Others lost: Isaac Bullock, G (9.4 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 1.2 apg; 76.1 FT%; 42.7 FG%; 37.8 3PT%).
Starters returning: Tony Barksdale, F (17.2 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 2.2 apg; 76.5 FT%; 43.0 FG%); Rod Brown, G (7.5 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 5.0 apg; 45.7 FG%); Brad Van Timmeren, F (5.0 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 50.5 FG%).
Other returnees: Tony Collins, G (0.5 rpg); Emil Mulic, C (6.5 ppg; 3.5 rpg; 48.2 FG%); Bronson Nichols, F (26.7 FG%); Thadus Williams, G (8.7 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 38.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Taylor Bro, F, 6-7/Fr.; KC Cavette, G, 6-0/Fr.; Thomas Haskell, C, 6-10/Fr. (redshirt); Jesse Slauter, F, 6-8/Fr. (redshirt); Bobby Brand, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jon Powell, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Virgil Singleton, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Rob Watson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Donewald continued his trend of dipping heavily into the junior-college ranks to build this season's basketball team. One to keep an eye on is 6-7, 200-pound forward Bro, who averaged 12.0 rebounds a game last year. He can help solidify the team's inside game on both ends.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Kalamazoo, Mich. **Home court:** University Arena (5,800).

6 EASTERN MICHIGAN
National Rank: 236

Coach: Milton Barnes (47-40, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 5-20. MAC West: 5-13/5th.
Starters lost: Ajani Williams, C.
Others lost: Jared Van Orden, G (Mormon mission).
Starters returning: Craig Erquhart, F (11.0 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 1.1 apg; 36.9 FG%); DeSean Hadley, G (7.9 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 1.8 apg; 37.3 FG%); Avin Howard, G (4.7 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 3.4 apg; 37.9 FG%); Calvin Warner, F (10.7 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 49.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Larry Fisher, G (6.5 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 37.1 3PT%; 34.5 FG%); Solomon McGee, C (3.3 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 44.6 FG%); Tyson Radney, F (2.2 ppg; 3.1 rpg; 37.5 FG%); Ben Romano, G (2.3 ppg; 1.5 rpg); Corey Tarrant, F (6.7 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 43.3 FG%).
Top newcomers: Adam Hess, G, 6-7/Fr.; C.J. Grantham, G, 5-9/Fr.; Ryan Prillman, F, 6-7/Fr. ; Mosi Barnes, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer, Purdue); Antonio Gate, G, 6-3/So. (transfer, Michigan State).
Outlook: The fall from the elite to one of the league's most dreadful last season was a steep one. The Eagles won only five games after posting back-to-back 20-win seasons the previous two years. The team, including 10 returning lettermen, needs to improve its shooting.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Ypsilanti, Mich. **Home court:** Convocation Center (8,824).

Mid-American Schedules

Akron
N20 Slippery Rock
N23 at Wyoming
N27 Illinois State
N30 Western Kentucky
D4 at Purdue
D7 at Cleveland State
D18 at Rhode Island
D21 at Marshall
D27 at Fla. International
D30 Oakland
J2 Toledo
J5 Buffalo
J8 at Western Mich.
J12 at Central Mich.
J15 at Miami (Ohio)
J19 Bowling Green
J26 at Kent
J29 at Ohio
F2 Marshall
F5 Ball State
F9 at Northern Illinois
F12 Eastern Michigan
F16 at Toledo
F19 at Buffalo
F23 Miami (Ohio)
F26 Central Michigan
M1 Western Michigan

Ball State
N27 at Indiana State
D3-4 First Merchants Classic
D8 Eastern Michigan
D11 Butler
D18 Purdue*
D21 Chaminade
D27 at San Diego State
J2 Ohio
J8 Marshall
J12 at Bowling Green
J15 at Toledo
J17 Miami (Ohio)
J19 at Western Mich.
J22 at Northern Illinois
J26 Central Michigan
J29 Buffalo
F2 at Eastern Michigan
F5 at Akron
F9 Kent
F12 at Miami (Ohio)
F16 at Ohio
F23 Toledo
F26 Bowling Green
F28 at Marshall
*Indianapolis

Bowling Green
N19-21 VoiceStream Wireless Challenge
N27 Ark.-Little Rock
N30 Western Illinois
D4 at Cleveland State
D7 at Oakland
D11 at Northern Iowa
D18 at West Virginia
D22 Urbana
D30 at Ark.-Little Rock
J2 Western Michigan
J5 at Eastern Michigan
J8 at Northern Illinois
J12 Ball State
J15 Kent
J17 Central Michigan
J19 at Akron
J22 at Toledo
J26 Buffalo
J29 at Marshall
F2 at Kent
F5 Miami (Ohio)
F9 Ohio
F12 at Central Michigan
F16 at Western Mich.
F19 Eastern Michigan
F26 at Ball State
F28 Northern Illinois

Buffalo
N19 Niagara
N21 Cornell
N23 at New Hampshire
N27 at Canisius
N30 Manhattan
D7 North Carolina
D10-11 Indiana Classic
D18 at Ohio
D21 at Miami (Ohio)
D28 at Toledo
J2 at Fairleigh Dicknsn
J5 at Akron
J8 at Eastern Michigan
J12 Western Michigan
J17 Ohio
J22 Kent
J25 at Bowling Green
J29 at Ball State
F3 Miami (Ohio)
F5 Northern Illinois
F9 at Central Michigan
F12 Toledo
F19 Akron
F21 Marshall
F26 at Western Mich.
F28 Eastern Michigan

Central Michigan
N20 Wisc.-Milwaukee
N23 Wright State
N27 at Illinois-Chicago
D1 Rochester
D4 at South Alabama
D8 Detroit
D11 Xavier
D18 at Georgia State
D22 at Purdue
J2 at Marshall
J5 at Miami (Ohio)
J8 Kent
J12 Akron
J15 at Western Mich.
J17 at Bowling Green
J19 Northern Illinois
J22 at Ohio
J26 at Ball State
J29 Eastern Michigan
F5 at Toledo
F9 Buffalo
F12 Bowling Green
F16 Marshall
F19 Miami (Ohio)
F23 Western Michigan
F26 at Akron
F28 at Kent

Eastern Michigan
N20 Northwood
N22 at Hampton
N27 at Chicago State
N29 Hillsdale
D3-4 Spartan Classic
D8 at Ball State
D21 at TCU
D23 at IUPUI
D30 Detroit
J2 at Kent
J5 Bowling Green
J8 Buffalo
J12 at Toledo
J15 Northern Illinois
J19 Ohio
J22 Marshall
J26 at Miami (Ohio)
J29 at Central Michigan
F2 Ball State
F5 Western Michigan
F12 at Akron
F16 Kent
F19 at Bowling Green
F23 at Northern Illinois
F26 Toledo
M1 at Buffalo

Kent
N23 Youngstown State
D1 Wisc.-Green Bay
D4 at Youngstown St.
D8 at Michigan
D22 Purdue-Fort Wayne
D27-28 Sierra Providence SunClassic
J2 Eastern Michigan
J5 Toledo
J8 at Central Michigan
J12 at Northern Illinois
J15 at Bowling Green
J19 Marshall
J22 at Buffalo
J26 Akron
J29 at Miami (Ohio)
F2 Bowling Green
F5 Ohio
F8 at Ball State
F12 Western Michigan
F16 at Eastern Michigan
F19 at Toledo
F23 at Marshall
F26 Northern Illinois
F28 Central Michigan

Miami (Ohio)
N21 at Temple
N24 at IUPUI
D1 at Tennessee
D4 at Wisc.-Green Bay
D8 Xavier
D11 Notre Dame
D18 Wright State
D21 Buffalo
D29 at Dayton
J3 Northern Illinois
J5 Central Michigan
J8 at Ohio
J15 Akron
J17 at Ball State
J19 at Toledo
J22 at Western Mich.
J26 Eastern Michigan
J29 Kent
D3 at Buffalo
D5 at Bowling Green
D9 Marshall
D12 Ball State
D17 at Northern Illinois
D19 at Central Michigan
D23 at Akron
TBD Ohio

Marshall
N19 West Virginia State
N27 at Alabama A&M
N29 at Massachusetts
D4 Radford
D7 Lee
D18 Georgia
D21 Akron
D28 UNC-Asheville
J2 Central Michigan
J5 at Western Mich.
J8 at Ball State
J12 Ohio
J19 at Kent
J22 at Eastern Michigan
J26 Toledo
J29 Bowling Green
F2 at Akron
F9 at Miami (Ohio)
F12 at Northern Illinois
F16 at Central Michigan
F19 Western Michigan
F21 at Buffalo
F23 Kent
F26 at Ohio
M1 Ball State

Northern Illinois
N19-20 Fla. Intl. Tip-Off Tr.
N24 at New Orleans
D2 Illinois-Chicago
D14 Wisconsin
D18 at Western Mich.
D21 at Wright State
J3 at Miami (Ohio)
J5 at Ohio
J8 Bowling Green
J12 Kent
J15 at Eastern Michigan
J19 at Central Michigan
J22 Ball State
J29 Toledo
F2 Western Michigan
F5 at Buffalo
F8 Akron
F12 at Marshall
F17 Miami (Ohio)
F19 Ohio
F23 Eastern Michigan
F26 at Kent
F28 at Bowling Green

Ohio
N20 Cleveland State
N25 vs. Princeton at Halifax, Nova Scotia
N30 George Washington
D3-4 Hawkeye Invitational
D11 at West Virginia
D13 Central Florida
D18 Buffalo
D22 at Portland
D28-30 Rainbow Classic
J2 at Ball State
J5 Northern Illinois
J8 Miami (Ohio)
J12 at Marshall
J15 at Cincinnati
J17 at Buffalo
J19 at Eastern Michigan
J22 Central Michigan
J29 Akron
F2 Toledo
F5 at Kent
F9 at Bowling Green
F16 Ball State
F19 at Northern Illinois
F21 at Toledo
F26 Marshall
F28 at Miami (Ohio)

Toledo
N22 at Michigan State
N25-28 Hawaii Pacific Cl.
D4 Detroit
D9 at Oakland
D20 at Youngstown State
D22 at Ohio State
D28 Buffalo
D30 at Xavier
J2 at Akron
J5 at Kent
J11 Eastern Michigan
J15 Ball State
J19 Miami (Ohio)
J22 Bowling Green
J26 at Marshall
J29 at Northern Illinois
F2 at Ohio
F5 Central Michigan
F8 at Western Michigan
F12 at Buffalo
F16 Akron
F19 Kent
F21 Ohio
F23 at Ball State
F26 at Eastern Michigan

Western Michigan
N20 at Detroit
N23 Loyola of Chicago
N27 at Michigan
N29 Youngstown State
D3-4 Marquette Classic
D11 at Oakland
D18 Northern Illinois
D22 Marist
D28 at Richmond
J2 at Bowling Green
J5 Marshall
J8 Akron
J12 at Buffalo
J15 Central Michigan
J19 Ball State
J22 Miami (Ohio)
J26 at Ohio
F2 at Northern Illinois
F5 at Eastern Michigan
F8 Toledo
F12 at Kent
F16 Bowling Green
F19 at Marshall
F23 at Central Michigan
F26 Buffalo
M1 at Akron

Midwestern Collegiate

By Tom Markowski *Detroit News*

Predictions

1. Detroit	5. Loyola (Ill.)
2. Butler	6. Wright State
3. Wisconsin-Green Bay	7. Illinois-Chicago
4. Cleveland State	8. Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rashad Phillips, Detroit	5-10	160	Sr.
G	B.J. LaRue, Wisconsin-Green Bay	6-4	190	Sr.
G	James Madison, Cleveland State	6-2	170	Sr.
G/F	Desmond Ferguson, Detroit	6-7	203	Sr.
F	Mike Marshall, Butler	6-4	235	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
F	Rylan Hainje, Butler	6-6	235	Jr.
F	Kevin Melson, Wright State	6-6	190	Jr.
F	Jerry Carstensen, Wisconsin-G.B.	6-7	220	Sr.
F	Daniel Whye, Detroit	6-8	210	Sr.
C	Chad Angeli, Wisc.-Milwaukee	6-9	240	Jr.

Player of the Year

Rashad Phillips, G, Detroit

Newcomer of the Year

Scott Robisch, C, Butler

Honor Roll

Best shooter: B.J. LaRue, Wisconsin-Green Bay.
Best rebounder: Mike Marshall, Butler.
Best playmaker: Earl Brown, Loyola (Ill.).
Best defender: Rashad Phillips, Detroit.
Best leaper: Rylan Hainje, Butler.
Most versatile: Kevin Melson, Wright State.
Most flamboyant: Rashad Phillips, Detroit.
Best NBA prospect: Rashad Phillips, Detroit.

RANK 13

1 DETROIT
National Rank: 44

Coach: Perry Watson (113-64, 6 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 25-6. MCC: 12-2/1st. Lost to Ohio State in NCAA South 2nd round.
Starters lost: Bacari Alexander, F (7.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 48.9 FG%, 40.0 3-pt%, 30.8 mpg); Jermaine Jackson, G (13.9 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 4.5 apg).
Others lost: Michael Jordan, F (transfer/TBA); Paul Whiting, F.
Starters returning: Walter Craft, C, 6-11/Jr. (3.6 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 56.6 FG%); Desmond Ferguson, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 76.1 FT%, 38.8 3-pt%, 34.7 mpg); Rashad Phillips, G, 5-10/Sr. (15.7 ppg, 84.1 FT%, 38.2 3-pt%, 4.3 apg, 35.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Darius Belin, G, 6-3/So. (11.7 mpg); Julian Van Dyke, F, 6-7/Sr. (53.3 FG%); Daniel Whye, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.6 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 54.5 FG%; 81.5 FT%; 38.5 3-pt%; 23.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Willie Green, G, 6-2/Fr.; Mark Maxwell, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: Just like last season, the Titans will rely on their guard play. Phillips is the most feared player in the conference. His quickness is unmatched, but he must take over the leadership role for the Titans to match their successes of the past two seasons. Ferguson proved last year he's more than a shooter. The Titans expect nothing less than an MCC title and a third consecutive NCAA appearance. They're the big kids on the block now, and it's up to the rest of the teams to prove otherwise.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1997.
Site: Detroit. **Home court:** Calihan Hall (8,837).

2 BUTLER
National Rank: 76

Coach: Barry Collier (173-124, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-10. MCC: 11-3/2nd. Lost to Clemson in NIT 3rd round.
Starters lost: Bjorn Gieseck, C (7.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 46.5 FG%, 100 3-pt%, 1.8 spg, 1.3 bpg, 22.8 mpg); Andy Hirschy, G (8.8 ppg, 1.6 spg, 24.5 mpg).
Others lost: Mike Pflunger, F (7.4 ppg, 46.6 FG%, 84.1 FT%, 1.7 spg, 21.1mpg).
Starters returning: Rylan Hainje, F, 6-6/So. (8.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 1.5 spg, 2.5 bpg, 28.8 mpg); Thomas Jackson, G, 5-11/So. (6.3 ppg, 1.5 spg, 22.4 mpg); Mike Marshall, F, 6-4/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 56.3 FG%, 1.6 apg, 28.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Andrew Graves, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 81.0 FT%, 1.1 spg, 19.5 mpg); Michael Hicks, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 46.0 FG%, 18.7 mpg); LaVall Jordan, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 76.2 FT%, 1.8 spg, 18.1 mpg); Jason Myers, G, 6-2/Jr. (100 FT%, 50.0 3-pt%).
Top newcomers: Darnell Archey, G, 6-0/Fr.; Joel Cornette, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Ben Grunst, C, 6-11/Fr.
Outlook: Butler has tournament experience (NIT quarterfinals in 1998, NCAA in '96 and '97) and a player, Marshall, who knows what it takes to win. His numbers might not be impressive, but he's a physical player. Collier won't be lacking depth, but there isn't a true scorer or proven post player on the team. Last season, Collier guided a team with no returning starters to the MCC title game and the quarterfinals of the NIT. This season, he has some proven players with whom to work. Look for the Bulldogs to return to the NCAAs.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043).

3 WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY
National Rank: 104

Coach: Mike Heideman (76-41, 4 years; 142-66 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-11. MCC: 9-5/3rd.
Starters lost: Matt Hill, F/C (12.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 80.2 FT%, 28.9 mpg); Luke Kiss, G (5.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 34.3 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Borowicz, G (9.5 ppg, 48.8 FG%, 49.1 3-pt%, 20.5 mpg); Mike Nabena, F (52.0 FG%, 10.2 mpg).
Starters returning: Jerry Carstensen, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 76.1 FT%, 26.3 mpg); B.J. LaRue, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.2 spg, 45.1 FG%, 84.5 FT%, 46.3 3-pt%, 31.1 mpg); Ryan Mueller, G/F, 6-6/So. (4.5 ppg, 47.5 FG%, 20.3).
Other returnees: DeVante Blanks, G, 5-10/So.; Ben Royten, G, 6-1/Sr.; Paul Kraft, G, 6-3/Jr.; Jeremy Pfister, G/F, 6-5/Sr.
Top newcomers: Greg Babcock, C, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Ashley Booth, G, 5-10/Fr. (RS); Chancellor Collins, G/F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Gene Evans, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS); Lance Hargrove, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Aaron Jessup, G, 6-4/So. (academics); Mike King, F, 6-8/Fr.; Greg Monfre, G, 6-0/Fr.; Derek Scheidt, G, 6-3/Fr.
Outlook: LaRue and Carstensen have played major roles for the Phoenix the past two seasons, and now they'll have to do even more. Other than Carstensen, there's no proven post player. LaRue can't do it by himself on the perimeter, and newer players such as Blanks will need more time to become comfortable playing at this level. The Phoenix will shoot the open 3-point shot better than any team and play defense with the best of them. But they aren't experienced enough to pass Detroit or Butler.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Green Bay. **Home court:** Brown County Arena (5,600).

4 CLEVELAND STATE
National Rank: 128

Coach: Rollie Massimino (35-48, 3 years; 462-326 overall, 26 years; 20-10 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA championship with Villanova in 1985).
1998-99 record: 14-14. MCC: 6-8/T4th.
Starters lost: JoVonn Jefferson, F (7.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 50.8 FG%, 24.4 mpg); Melvin McKey, G (6.8 ppg, 3.4 apg, 1.6 spg, 26.1 mpg).
Others lost: Carter Arnett, C (4.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 20.8 mpg); Steve Bowie, F (5.5 ppg, 56.1 FG%, 14.6 mpg).
Starters returning: Ricardo Crumble, C, 6-8/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 58.1 FG%, 19.4 mpg); Theo Dixon, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.2 spg, 75.7 FT%, 28.6 mpg); James Madison, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.0 ppg, 1.6 spg, 81.7 FT%, 33.4 mpg).
Other returnees: David Barrett, F, 6-8/Sr.; Jamaal Harris, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 17.7 mpg); Anthony Jackson, F, 6-7/Jr.; Sonny Johnson, G/F, 6-5/So. (8.5 ppg, 54.9 FG%, 18.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tahric Gosley, F, 6-8/Fr.; Joe Lofton, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Brown Mackie); Kevin Ross, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Monroe JC); Damon Stringer, G, 5-11/Sr. (transfer/Ohio State); Doc Taylor, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/DePaul).
Outlook: The Vikings are an athletic team that likes to push the ball, create turnovers and physically beat down teams. Madison and Dixon are solid scoring threats. The Vikings are at their best when their intensity is high and the tempo is fast, but they have the tendency to get a little too exuberant. If Stringer can play up to his potential and assimilate into Massimino's scheme, the Vikings can play with the best in the MCC.

A third-place finish in the regular season is well within range.
Last league title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Cleveland. **Home court:** Goodman Arena (13,610).

5 LOYOLA (ILL.)
National Rank: 145

Coach: Larry Farmer (9-18, 1 year; 104-95 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record.
1998-99 record: 9-18. MCC: 7-7/4th.
Starters lost: Javan Goodman, F (18.5 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.2 spg, 34.4 mpg).
Others lost: Carlos Gallo, G (12.8 mpg); Kevin Gill F; Drew Petersen, F (13.1 mpg).
Starters returning: Earl Brown, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 5.0 apg, 1.9 spg, 31.3 mpg); Damien McSwine, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 26.8 mpg); Brad Tice, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (20.5 mpg); Chris Williams, G, 6-3/So. (10.6 ppg, 24.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Jon Freeman, F, 6-7/So.; Jarod Fry, F, 6-6/So.; Wayne Plowman, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.0 mpg); Ndueso Udoiwod, G, 6-0/Jr.; Chris Williams, G, 6-3/So. (12.1 ppg, 47.1 FG%, 26.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: David Bailey, G, 5-8/Fr.; Schin Kerr, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Central Florida JC); Jerell Parker, G, 6-4/Fr.; Slivijie Turkovic, F/C, 6-9/So. (Ad Plastik/Croatia).
Outlook: More than anything else, the Ramblers are beginning to believe they can win. Brown is one of the premier guards in the MCC. He's the heart and soul of the team, and if he has a great season, so will the Ramblers. The Ramblers have no real center and are not physical at the forward positions. So maybe it's far-fetched to say they could make a run at a tournament bid. But stranger things have happened. Farmer has this program moving forward.
Last league title: 1987 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Joseph J. Gentile Center (5,200).

6 WRIGHT STATE
National Rank: 201

Coach: Ed Schilling (19-36, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 9-18. MCC: 4-10/7th.
Starters lost: Keion Brooks, G (20.7 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.8 spg, 36.8 mpg); Inus Norville, C (9.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 21.3 mpg); Sherman Curry, F (5.3 ppg, 47.1 FG%, 22.8 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Grose, F (left school).
Starters returning: Marcus May, G, 5-10/So. (9.4 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.7 spg, 35.4 3-pt%, 35.8 mpg); Kevin Melson, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.7 spg, 1.1 bpg, 49.3 FG%, 76.5 FT%, 34.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Louis Holmes, G, 6-4/So. (9.8 mpg); Onome Scott-Emuakpor, F, 6-7/Jr. (15.3 mpg); Israel Sheinfeld, C, 6-10/So. (4.0 ppg, 54.1 FG%, 13.9 mpg); Steve Yeagle, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (83.3 FT%, 47.6 3-pt%, 8.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Joe Bills, G, 6-0/Fr.; Tyson Freeman, G, 5-11/So. (Prop. 48); Vernard Hollins, G, 6-3/Fr.; Thomas Hope, F, 6-9/Fr.; Emmanuel Stone, C, 6-9/So. (transfer/California (Pa.)); John Watkins, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: This is a young team, so the underclassmen must assume the leadership roles. Versatile Melson and May, superb in the clutch, are just the two to do it. Holmes and Hollins are natural scorers. The Raiders will consider the season a success if they finish sixth. There's not a wealth of talent into which Schilling can dip. Still, Melson is one of the top players in the conference, and if May is consistent at the point, the Raiders may surprise a few teams.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dayton, Ohio. **Home court:** Ervin J. Nutter Center (10,600).

7 ILLINOIS-CHICAGO
National Rank: 223

Coach: Jimmy Collins (44-41, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 7-21. MCC: 2-12/8th.
Starters lost: Jason Ayers, G (8.1 ppg, 1.2 spg, 79.3 FT%, 36.5 3-pt%, 27.4 mpg); Bryant Notree, G/F (15.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.1 spg, 32.4 mpg).
Others lost: Vladimir Buscaglia, F, (11.3 mpg/left school); Anton Collins, F (12.9 mpg).
Starters returning: Ian Hanavan, F, 6-6/So. (5.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 85.7 FT%, 20.9 mpg); Jordan Kardos, G, 6-2/So. (7.6 ppg, 83.3 FT%, 18.5 mpg); Thor Solverson, C, 6-11/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 80.3 FT%, 16.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Joel Bullock, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 22.0 mpg); Steve Farmer, F, 6-6/So. (4.0 rpg, 15.6 mpg); Cory Little, G, 6-5/Jr. (17.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Maurice Brown, F, 6-7/Fr. (transfer/Rutgers—never played); Taurus Cook, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Hutchinson JC); Jabari Harris, F, 6-9/Fr.; Jonathan Schneiderman, G, 5-11/Fr.; Joe Scott, F, 6-9/Fr.; Jared Sherman, G, 6-0/Jr. (Harper JC).
Outlook: The Flames showed signs of life late in the season and gave Detroit quite a scare in the first round of the MCC tournament. Still, it was a bad year any way you look at it. The Flames need Bullock to step up and claim the point guard spot. The team will finish no better than fifth, but if they don't start playing as a team, they could finish last again. Collins must show patience and build for the future on a weekly basis.
Last league title: 1998 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Chicago. **Home Court:** UIC Pavilion (8,000).

8 WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
National Rank: 252

Coach: Bo Ryan (first year; 353-76 overall, 15 years).
1998-99 record: 8-19. MCC: 5-9/6th.
Starters lost: Cyrus Caldwell, G (8.5 ppg, 1.3 spg, 34.6 mpg); Jared Hardwick, G/F (7.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.2 spg, 22.8 mpg/transfer TBA); Damion Ninkovic, F, (10.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 23.2 mpg).
Others lost: Dan Johnson, G (18.6 mpg); Roy King, G (6.1 ppg, 18.5 mpg); Larry Treadwell, G (5.4 ppg, 14.5 mpg).
Starters returning: Chad Angeli, C, 6-9/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 55.7 FG%, 81.3 FT%, 30.6 mpg); Shaun Fountain, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Kyle Kickert, C, 6-7/So.; Reggie Wheeler, G, 6-5/Jr.
Top newcomers: Adrian Coffey, F, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Olney Central JC); Jason Frederick, G, 6-4/Fr.; Kolombo Kadima, G, 6-2/Fr.; Dan Weisse, G, 5-11/Fr.
Outlook: The Panthers have not been a consistently competitive team, but Angeli plays as hard as any player in the conference. Other than Angeli, the strength of the Panthers is their new coach, Ryan. Highly successful at the Division III level, Ryan could very well be the right person at the right time for this program. But unless Ryan can work miracles, this team will be lucky if it finishes out of the cellar. Games against Wisconsin, Cincinnati and Utah may do more harm than good to prepare Milwaukee for the conference season.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** Klotsche Center (5,000).

Midwestern Collegiate Schedules

Butler
N23 at UNC-Wilmington
N28 Mt. St. Mary's
D1 Indiana State
D4 Evansville
D7 at Eastern Illinois
D11 at Ball State
D18 Belmont
D22 Nevada
D28 at TCU
J3 at UT-Martin
J8 Wright State
J13 at Cleveland State
J15 at Detroit
J20 Wis.-Green Bay
J22 Wis.-Milwaukee
J24 Indiana-Purdue
J27 at Illinois-Chicago
J29 at Loyola-Chicago
F5 at Wright State
F10 Detroit
F12 Cleveland State
F17 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F19 at Wis.-Green Bay
F24 Loyola-Chicago
F26 Illinois-Chicago

Cleveland State
N20 at Ohio
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D4 Bowling Green
D7 Akron
D11 at Sacred Heart
D14 Prairie View A&M
D18 Dayton
D20 Oakland
D27 Temple
D30 at St. Bonaventure
J6 at Loyola-Chicago
J8 at Illinois-Chicago
J10 Sacred Heart
J13 Butler
J15 Wright State
J17 at South Florida
J22 at Detroit
J27 at Wis.-Green Bay
J29 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F3 Illinois-Chicago
F5 Loyola of Chicago
F10 at Wright State
F12 at Butler
F16 at Stony Brook
F19 Detroit
F24 Wis.-Milwaukee
F26 Wis.-Green Bay

Detroit
N20 Western Michigan
N23 at Michigan
N27 Georgia State
N30 Mississippi Valley
D4 at Toledo
D8 at Central Michigan
D11 Massachusetts
D20-22 San Juan Shootout
D28 Chicago State
D30 at Eastern Michigan
J3 Eastern Kentucky
J6 at Illinois-Chicago
J8 at Loyola
J13 Wright State
J15 Butler
J19 at George Mason
J22 Cleveland State
J27 at Wis.-Milwaukee
J29 at Wis.-Green Bay
F3 Loyola
F5 Illinois-Chicago
F10 at Butler
F12 at Wright State
F19 at Cleveland State
F24 Wis.-Green Bay
F26 Wis.-Milwaukee

Illinois-Chicago
N19 Norfolk State
N23 Oregon
N27 Central Michigan
N30 Indiana-Purdue
D2 at Northern Illinois
D4 St. Francis (Pa.)
D7 at Chicago State
D11 Southern Illinois
D16 at Fla. International
D21-23 Puerto Rico Classic
D30 Illinois State
J3 at Drake
J6 Detroit
J8 Cleveland State
J13 at Wis.-Milwaukee
J15 at Wis.-Green Bay
J17 at UNC-Wilmington
J22 at Loyola
J27 Butler
J29 Wright State
F3 at Cleveland State
F5 at Detroit
F10 Wis.-Green Bay
F12 Wis.-Milwaukee
F19 Loyola
F24 at Wright State
F26 at Butler

Loyola
N21 Stephen F. Austin
N23 at Western Michigan
N27 Bradley
N30 at Eastern Kentucky
D3-4 Spartan Classic
D11 Drake
D17 Portland
D19 Kansas State
D22 Canisius
D30 at Illinois
J3 Oakland
J6 Cleveland State
J8 Detroit
J13 at Wis.-Green Bay
J15 at Wis.-Milwaukee
J18 Chicago State
J22 Illinois-Chicago
J27 Wright State
J29 Butler
F3 at Detroit
F5 at Cleveland State
F10 Wis.-Milwaukee
F12 Wis.-Green Bay
F19 Illinois-Chicago
F24 at Butler
F26 at Wright State

Wisconsin-Green Bay
N20 UNC-Wilmington
N23 at East Carolina
N26-28 SoCal Holiday Tournament
D2 at Northern Iowa
D4 Miami (Ohio)
D8 at Wisconsin
D11 at Kent
D18 SW Texas State
D23 Appalachian State
D29-30 Oneida Bingo and Casino Cl.
J3 at San Francisco
J8 Wis.-Milwaukee
J13 Loyola
J15 Illinois-Chicago
J20 at Butler
J22 at Wright State
J27 Cleveland State
J29 Detroit
J31 St. Bonaventure
F5 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F10 at Illinois-Chicago
F12 at Loyola
F17 Wright State
F19 Butler
F24 at Detroit
F26 at Cleveland State

Wisconsin-Milwaukee
N20 at Central Michigan
N23 Wisconsin
N27 at Missouri-K.C.
N30 Mt. Senario
D3-4 First Merchants Classic
D6 Michigan Tech
D8 at Iowa State
D11 Fairleigh Dickinson
D27 at Cincinnati
D30 at Utah
J3 Stony Brook
J8 at Wis.-Green Bay
J13 Illinois-Chicago
J15 Loyola
J20 at Wright State
J22 at Butler
J27 Detroit
J29 Cleveland State
F5 Wis.-Green Bay
F10 at Loyola
F12 at Illinois-Chicago
F15 Chicago State
F17 Butler
F19 Wright State
F24 at Cleveland State
F26 at Detroit

Wright State
N19 at Pittsburgh
N23 at Central Michigan
N27 at Texas Pan-Am
N30 South Alabama
D4 Northern Iowa
D7 at Morehead State
D13 at St. Mary's
D16 Prairie View A&M
D18 at Miami (Ohio)
D21 Northern Illinois
D23 St. Mary's
D30 Michigan State
J3 Tennessee State
J8 at Butler
J13 at Detroit
J15 at Cleveland State
J20 Wis.-Milwaukee
J22 Wis.-Green Bay
J27 at Loyola
J29 at Illinois-Chicago
F5 Butler
F10 Cleveland State
F12 Detroit
F17 at Wis.-Green Bay
F19 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F24 Illinois-Chicago
F26 Loyola

Missouri Valley

RANK 11

By Bryan Bloodworth
The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Ill.)

Predictions

1. Bradley	6. Southern Illinois
2. Indiana State	7. Illinois State
3. Evansville	8. Wichita State
4. Creighton	9. Drake
5. SW Missouri State	10. Northern Iowa

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Rob Dye, Bradley	6-1	190	Sr.
G	Jason Perez, Wichita State	6-4	205	Sr.
C/F	Chris Thunell, Southern Illinois	6-9	223	Sr.
F	Nate Green, Indiana State	6-5	195	Sr.
F	Craig Snow, Evansville	6-8	225	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	William Fontleroy, SW Missouri State	6-3	x	Sr.
G	Tarise Bryson, Illinois State	6-1	175	Jr.
F	Joe Breakenridge, Northern Iowa	6-8	213	Jr.
F	Matt Renn, Indiana State	6-6	205	Jr.
F	Dontay Harris, Drake	6-8	205	Sr.

Player of the Year

Rob Dye, G, Bradley

Newcomer of the Year

Kent Williams, G, Southern Illinois

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Jason Perez, Wichita State.
Best rebounder: Joe Breakenridge, Northern Iowa.
Best playmaker: Ryan Sears, Creighton.
Best defender: Eric Roberson, Bradley.
Best leaper: Tarise Bryson, Illinois State.
Most versatile: Nate Green, Indiana State.
Most flamboyant: William Fontleroy, SW Missouri State.
Best NBA prospect: Rob Dye, Bradley.

1 BRADLEY
National Rank: 38

Coach: Jim Molinari (132-104, 8 years; 174-121 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-12. MVC: 11-7/T2nd. Lost to Butler in NIT 1st round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Gavin Schairer, G (7.8 ppg, 88.9 FT%, 43.2 3-pt%, 20.2 mpg).
Starters returning: Rob Dye, G, 6-1/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 81.3 FT%, 35.6 3-pt%, 2.7 spg, 36.9 mpg); Aba Koita, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 17.9 mpg); Matthew Lee, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 45.6 FG%, 21.1 mpg); Eric Roberson, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 39.3 3-pt%, 2.2 spg, 31.5 mpg); Jerome Robinson, F, 6-3/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 1.0 spg, 26.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Kevin Clancy, G, 6-3/Soph. (14.6 mpg); Reggie Hall, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (4.2 ppg, 15.6 mpg); Milo Kirsh, F, 6-7/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 15.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ed Cage, F, 6-7/Jr. (RS/eye); Andre Corbitt, G, 6-5/Fr.; Jermaine Brown, F, 6-5/Soph. (Prop 48); Angelo Flanders, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Jeff Rabey, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); David Selby, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Bradley is the team to beat in the Missouri Valley. The team returns all five starters from a group that finished second in the regular-season standings and earned a berth in the NIT. The Braves have the best guard tandem in the league with seniors Dye and Roberson. They combined for 27.2 points and 4.9 steals per game last season and were the main reason Bradley finished tied for 16th nationally in scoring defense.The return of a healthy Cage at forward should bolster the Braves' inside attack. Lettermen Koita, Lee and Hall, along with junior-college additions Rabey and Flanders, give Bradley more options and depth along the front line. Koita probably will get the bulk of his playing time at center, with Rabey serving as a backup. Lee is a defensive stopper inside, and Flanders adds height and bulk to the inside game. Defense will be the Braves' rallying cry. During Molinari's eight-year tenure at Bradley, the Braves have finished among the top 24 schools in team defense seven times.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Peoria, Ill. **Home court:** Carver Arena (10,875).

2 INDIANA STATE
National Rank: 70

Coach: Royce Waltman (31-23, 2 years; 220-109 overall, 12 years).
1998-99 record: 15-12. MVC: 10-8/5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Chad Adkins, G (7.7 ppg, 36.0 3-pt%, 21.1 mpg); Jon Luchetti, F.
Starters returning: Nate Green, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 4.6 apg, 46.8 FG%, 38.3 3-pt%, 1.2 bpg, 2.3 spg, 29.9 mpg); Matt Renn, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 2.2 apg, 47.5 FG%, 1.4 spg, 33.0 mpg); Michael Menser, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 1.4 spg, 31.1 mpg); Abasi Thompson, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 20.5 mpg); Djibril Kante, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 57.3 FG%, 21.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Keyln Block, G, 6-2/Soph. (6.8 ppg, 21.1 mpg); Brian Giesen, F, 6-9/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 55.0 FG%, 19.8 mpg); Chad Hunter, G, 6-6/Jr.; Andy Williamson, F, 6-5/Soph.
Top newcomers: Matt Broermann, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Michael Kernan, C, 6-11/Fr.; Jeremy McGlothlin, G, 6-0/Fr.; Terence Avery, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Northwestern); Jimmie Metcalfe, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/Florida Atlantic).
Outlook: Indiana State fans should be disappointed if their team isn't in the hunt for the league championship all season. With the return of all five starters and eight of their top nine players, the Sycamores have the personnel to reach the 20-victory mark for the first time since the Larry Bird-led team went 33-1 in 1979. Indiana State will have the services of one of the more experienced frontcourts in the Valley with the return of Thompson, Renn and Kante. All were starters in nearly half or all of the Sycamores' contests a year ago. Menser, among the league leaders in assists last season, returns for his third straight tour of duty at point guard, and the versatile Green will join him in the backcourt. The Sycamores also could get minutes from point guard Metcalfe, a transfer from Florida Atlantic, and steadily improved sophomore Block. Waltman thinks his team must play better interior defense and improve its overall shooting performance to compete with the top teams of the MVC.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Terre Haute, Ind. **Home court:** Hulman Center (10,200).

3 EVANSVILLE
National Rank: 85

Coach: Jim Crews (255-160, 14 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-10. MVC: 13-5/1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA Midwest 1st round.
Starters lost: Marcus Wilson, G (20.7 ppg, 51.2 FG%, 89.7 FT%, 46.7 3-pt%, 1.2 spg, 34.8 mpg).
Others lost: Curt Begle, F/C (7.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 36.6 3-pt%, 23.5 mpg).
Starters returning: Kwame James, C, 6-8/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 61.8 FG%, 18.6 mpg); Adam Seitz, F, 6-3/Soph. (6.9 ppg, 53.2 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Craig Snow, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 79.5 FT%, 43.3 3-pt%, 25.5 mpg); Jeremy Stanton, G, 6-1/Jr. (4.5 apg, 51.3 FG%, 28.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Chuck Hedde, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (54.8 FG%, 11.9 mpg); Clint Keown, G, 6-2/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 1.1 spg, 18.0 mpg); Kyle Runyan, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 38.6 3-pt%, 15.1 mpg); Matt Vidoni, C, 6-9/Sr.
Top newcomers: Nick Baumgart, G, 6-3/Fr.; Dan Lytle, C, 6-10/Fr.; Faruk Mujezinovic, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Kris Stoneking, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/New Orleans).
Outlook: The Purple Aces finished last season second in the nation in free-throw percentage, third in field-goal percentage and third in 3-point field-goal percentage. If they can come close to those numbers, they can defend their league title. Evansville has the luxury of returning five players along the front line, including Snow, among the best shooters in the league and the team's leading rebounder. Runyan, slowed by injuries a year ago, will prove valuable at the small forward or off-guard position, and James, among the league leaders in field-goal percentage and blocked shots, will man the center position. The Purple Aces also bolstered their inside attack by signing big freshmen Lytle and Mujezinovic. League assists leader Stanton again will direct the Evansville attack from his point guard spot. Stanton, a good perimeter scorer and great defender, will lead a deep crew of players who will see time at the guard position. Crews must find a way to offset the graduation losses of Player of the Year Wilson and Begle, who provided serious offensive punch and leadership.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Evansville, Ind. **Home court:** Roberts Stadium (12,300).

4 CREIGHTON
National Rank: 92

Coach: Dana Altman (76-68, 5 years; 159-135 overall, 11 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-9. MVC: 11-7/T2nd. Lost to Maryland in NCAA South 2nd round.
Starters lost: Rodney Buford, F (18.6 ppg, 7.2 rpg,

46.9 FG%, 82.0 FT%, 44.0 3-pt%, 1.9 spg, 32.6 mpg); Doug Swenson, C (11.8 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 54.4 FG%, 76.2 FT%, 1.7 bpg, 22.8 mpg).
Others lost: Corie Brandon, G (7.2 ppg, 76.8 FT%, 1.2 spg, 23.0 mpg); Cliff Bates, F.
Starters returning: Donnie Johnson, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 51.7 FG%, 12.9 mpg); Ryan Sears, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.7 ppg, 4.0 apg, 85.5 FT%, 2.2 spg, 33.6 mpg); Ben Walker, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 45.3 3-pt%, 1.4 spg, 23.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Justin Haynes, F, 6-4/Jr. (10.0 mpg); Alan Huss, C, 6-9/Jr.; Nerijus Karlikanovas, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 81.7 FT%, 18.5 mpg); Matt West, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Joe Dabbert, C, 6-10/Fr.; Mike Grimes, F, 6-7/Fr.; Kyle Korver, F, 6-6/Fr.; Terrell Taylor, G, 6-3/Fr.; Livan Pyfrom, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Creighton has enough experience and firepower to battle for the league championship. How well its big men fill the voids left by NBA draft pick Buford and big man Swenson will go a long way in determining where the Bluejays finish in the conference race. The backcourt will be the strength of the Creighton attack. West, along with Sears and Walker, will be looked on to provide leadership. Sears has started every game in his college career and led the conference last year with a 2.1-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio. Walker provides a tough matchup because of his ability to handle the ball and scoring versatility. Despite losing Buford and Swenson, Creighton should be in decent shape along the front line with the return of five members, headlined by Johnson and Karlikanovas, from last year's frontcourt. The Bluejays will need to get stronger contributions from returning lettermen Haynes and John Klein at the forward spots and Huss in the middle.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Omaha, Neb. **Home court:** Omaha Civic Auditorium (9,493).

5 SW MISSOURI STATE
National Rank: 115

Coach: Barry Hinson (first year, 36-23 overall, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 22-11. MVC: 11-7/T2nd. Lost to Duke in NCAA East semifinals.
Starters lost: Danny Moore, C (16.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 48.5 FG%, 2.5 bpg, 32.0 mpg); Ken Stringer, F (5.7 ppg, 23.0 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Bettenhausen, G (10.6 mpg); Paul Murans, F; Brandon Miller, G (11.1 mpg; transfer/Butler); Busch Tshomba, F.
Starters returning: Kevin Ault, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 80.8 FT%, 2.4 spg, 30.4 mpg); Ron Bruton, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 60.2 FG%, 1.2 spg, 24.5 mpg); William Fontleroy, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 4.1 apg, 45.1 FG%, 40.0 3-pt%, 1.6 spg, 29.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Scott Brakebill, F, 6-8/Soph. (4.2 ppg, 45.2 FG%, 11.8 mpg); Eric Judd, G, 6-1/Sr.; Allen Phillips, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 76.0 FT%, 36.6 3-pt%, 21.3 mpg); Matt Rueter, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (8.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brian George, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Steve Ausler, F, 6-7/Fr.; Matt Engstrom, C, 6-9/Fr.; Charles Gaines, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Kurt Spurgeon, F, 6-5/Fr.; Travis Walk, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Nic Wright, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Bears must fill the huge scoring and rebounding void created by the graduation of Moore. To accomplish that, they must establish a strong inside game to free the deadly perimeter shooters. Bruton may be the only returning starter from last year's front line, but Valley fans shouldn't let that fool them. Bruton, who more than makes up for a lack of mass with his quickness and jumping ability, will be joined by returning lettermen Brakebill, Rueter and Phillips, all experienced players inside. Freshman recruit Engstrom is being counted on heavily to provide backup assistance for Rueter at center. The Bears' strength again will be their backcourt, with the return of three-year starters Ault and Fontleroy. Ault is among the more productive 3-point shooters in the league, and Fontleroy is a lightning-quick defender and ballhandler. With good shooting and production from new recruits, SMS may get its first Valley championship. If neither materialize, it is looking at a second-division finish.
Last league title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Springfield, Mo. **Home court:** Hammons Student Center (8,846).

6 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
National Rank: 144

Coach: Bruce Weber (15-12, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 15-12. MVC: 10-8/T5th.
Starters lost: Monte Jenkins, F (14.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 38.0 3-pt%, 1.0 spg, 33.7 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Hammer, G; James Jackson, C; James Watts, F/C (12.3 mpg).
Starters returning: Ricky Collum, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 75.0 FT%, 36.5 3-pt%, 32.9 mpg); Chris Thunell, F, 6-9/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 82.8 FT%, 1.0 spg, 28.5 mpg); Derrick Tilmon, C, 6-8/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 53.3 FG%, 1.0 bpg, 24.2 mpg); Abel Schrader, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 19.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Joshua Cross, F, 6-4/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 60.6 FG%, 1.2 spg, 17.o mpg); Brandon Mells, G, 6-1/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 18.1 mpg); Gianandrea Marcaccini, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jermaine Dearman, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brad Korn, F, 6-9/Fr.; Kent Williams, G, 6-2/Fr.
Outlook: With four starters and three key reserves back from a much improved Salukis team of a year ago, things are definitely looking up in Carbondale. After losing all-conference performer Jenkins to graduation, Weber will build his second team around Thunell, Tilmon, Schrader and Cross. Freshman recruits Dearman and Korn will need to be productive at power forward and small forward, respectively, to give the Salukis depth up front. The Salukis probably will use a three-guard offense with point guard Collum, a member of the league's all-newcomer team a year ago, leading the way. He will be joined by Mells, heralded freshman recruit Williams and Cross in the backcourt mix. The Salukis must find someone who can be the defensive stopper that Jenkins was and make up for his points down the stretch. If they do, look out, MVC first division.
Last league title: 1994 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Carbondale, Ill. **Home court:** SIU Arena (10,014).

7 ILLINOIS STATE
National Rank: 162

Coach: Tom Richardson (first year).
1998-99 record: 16-15. MVC: 7-11/7th.
Starters lost: Sean Riley, F (9.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 55.0 FG%, 87.2 FT%, 1.1 bpg, 25.7 mpg); LeRoy Watkins, C (9.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 1.1 spg, 1.6 bpg, 25.8 mpg); Victor Williams, G (7.9 ppg, 42.1 3-pt%, 1.3 spg, 25.9 mpg; transfer/Oklahoma State).
Others lost: Kyle Cartmill, G (6.4 ppg, 38.9 3-pt%, 1.0 spg, 26.2 mpg); Kenneth Pierson, F (8.2 mpg).
Starters returning: Tarise Bryson, G, 6-1/Jr. (15.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 82.1 FT%, 42.0 3-pt%, 1.2 spg, 32.2 mpg); L. Dee Murdock, F, 6-9/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 56.1 FG%, 28.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Crowley, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 76.4 FT%, 19.3 mpg); Joe Hein, F, 6-7/Sr.; Shawn Jeppson, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ray Austin, F, 6-7/Fr.; Ishmael Joyce, G, 6-2/Fr.; Perry Smith, G, 6-4/Fr.; Andy Strandmark, C, 6-11/Fr.; Isaac Kincaid, G, 6-3/Soph. (Prop 48); Rich Beyers, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Illinois); Dan Luczywko, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/South Florida).
Outlook: First-year coach Richardson needs to settle on a point guard early and get a better effort from the Redbirds on the defensive end to compete. The team will be led by second-team all-league guard Bryson. But when Williams, the league's Newcomer of the Year, decided to transfer late in the recruiting season, the Redbirds were left without a true point guard. They were able to land Joyce and will get Kincaid back from Prop 48 to share time at the position. The Redbirds have a host of players who could divide their time between the power forward and pivot positions. Leading the group is Murdock, who was on his way to a position on the all-conference team when he went down with a torn ACL in late January. Transfers Luczywko, a rugged rebounder, and Beyers, along with freshman recruit Austin, also will see time at power forward. Crowley will start at small forward in the early going, but incoming freshman Smith will push for playing time.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Normal, Ill. **Home court:** Redbird Arena (10,200).

8 WICHITA STATE
National Rank: 200

Coach: Randy Smithson (43-45, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 13-17. MVC: 6-12/T8th.
Starters lost: Maurice Evans, G (22.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 79.2 FT%, 42.1 3-pt%, 32.2 mpg; transferred/Texas).
Others lost: James Bunch, C/F (8.9 mpg); Luke Utting, F (12.2 mpg); Bart Westgeest, F (16.6 mpg; transferred/Armstrong Atlantic State).
Starters returning: Carl Lemons, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.9 ppg, 1.1 spg, 23.3 mpg); Troy Mack, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 53.6 FG%, 20.7 mpg); Jason Perez, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 3.0 apg, 50.4 FG%, 83.3 FT%, 43.8 3-pt%, 1.8 spg, 34.7 mpg); Darrin Williams, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 50.5 FG%, 19.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Terrell Benton, G, 6-5/Soph. (4.1 ppg, 11.6 mpg); Jay Lewis, G, 6-1/Soph. (9.3 mpg); Mahrnord Martina, G, 6-10/Soph.; Craig Steven, G, 6-2/Soph. (21.1 mpg); Reggie Smithson, G, 6-1/Soph. (8.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Willie Davis, F, 6-9/Soph. (Prop 48); Josh Drumgole, G, 6-5/Fr.; Juston White, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Mike Phillips, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); O.J. Robinson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Shockers must make up for the loss of Evans, one of the top scorers in the nation, who transferred to Texas. However, Smithson thinks this year's team has more depth in the frontcourt and backcourt than at any time in his four-year coaching career at Wichita State. The Shockers, who finished second in the conference in rebounding margin a year ago, have a front line that should stay near the the top again. Veteran players Williams and Mack anchor the interior attack. Martina, Davis and junior-college transfer Robinson adds the necessary depth at the front line to allow all-conference performer Perez to finally settle in at off-guard, his natural position. Perez is the Valley's active career scoring leader, with 1,252 points. Returning lettermen Lemons and Benton also played valuable minutes at guard a year ago and are primed for similar duty. The Shockers have the experience and depth to finish in the upper division, but maybe not the sheer firepower.
Last league title: 1983.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Wichita, Kan. **Home court:** Levitt Arena (10,423).

9 DRAKE
National Rank: 219

Missouri Valley Schedules

Bradley
N19 South Alabama
N22 Illinois
N27 at Loyola of Chicago
D1 at Western Illinois
D4 Georgia State
D8 George Washington
D16 at Auburn
D19 at Drake
D22 Southeast Missouri State
D27-30 Rainbow Classic
J5 at Wichita State
J8 Indiana State
J12 at Northern Iowa
J15 Evansville
J19 Wichita State
J22 at Southern Illinois
J26 Illinois State
J30 Southwest Missouri State
F2 at Evansville
F5 Northern Iowa
F8 at Illinois State
F13 at Creighton
F16 Drake
F19 at Southwest Missouri State
F23 Creighton
F26 Southern Illinois
F28 at Indiana State

Creighton
N22 at Mississippi Valley State
N27 Iowa
D1 at Georgia State
D4 at Baylor
D6 Grambling State
D9 Nebraska
D12 Illinois State
D20 at Western Illinois
D21 at Florida Atlantic
D23 at Hawaii
D28 Southwest Missouri State
J2 at Northern Iowa
J6 at Indiana State
J8 at Southern Illinois
J12 Tulsa
J15 Drake
J19 at Southwest Missouri State
J23 at Evansville
J26 Northern Iowa
J29 Wichita State
F1 at Drake
F5 at Illinois State
F7 at Colorado State
F13 Bradley
F16 Indiana State
F19 Southern Illinois
F23 at Bradley
F26 at Wichita State
F28 Evansville

Drake
N19 Iowa State
N23 Delaware State
N27 at Lamar
D1 SUNY-Stony Brook
D9 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D11 at Loyola of Chicago
D19 Bradley
D23 Mississippi Valley State
D28 at Iowa
J3 Illinois-Chicago
J5 Evansville
J9 Northern Iowa
J12 at Evansville
J15 at Creighton
J17 Illinois State
J22 at Indiana State
J26 at Southern Illinois
J29 Indiana State
F1 Creighton
F5 Southern Illinois
F10 at Southwest Missouri State
F12 at Wichita State
F16 at Bradley
F19 Wichita State
F23 Southwest Missouri State
F26 at Northern Iowa
F28 at Illinois State

Evansville
N20 IUPUI
N23 at Western Kentucky
N26-28 at Hoop & Quill Classic
D4 at Butler
D8 at Southern Illinois
D11 East Carolina
D16 UT-Martin
D18 UNC-Greensboro
D21 Morgan State
D30 Eastern Illinois
J2 Wichita State
J5 at Drake
J8 Illinois State
J12 Drake
J15 at Bradley
J17 at Northern Iowa
J23 Creighton
J26 at Southwest Missouri State
J29 Southern Illinois
F2 Bradley
F5 at Wichita State
F12 at Indiana State
F16 Southwest Missouri State
F20 at Illinois State
F23 Northern Iowa
F28 at Creighton

Illinois State
N21 at Oakland
N24 Western Illinois
N27 at Akron
D1 at Bowling Green State
D4 Central Michigan
D7 Purdue
D12 at Creighton
D20-22 San Juan Shootout
D28 Northeastern
D30 at Illinois-Chicago
J5 Southern Illinois
J8 at Evansville
J12 Indiana St.
J15 at Northern Iowa
J17 at Drake
J22 Southwest Missouri State
J26 at Bradley
J29 Northern Iowa
F2 at Indiana State
F5 Creighton
F8 Bradley
F12 at Southern Illinois
F16 at Wichita State
F20 Evansville
F23 Wichita State
F26 at Southwest Missouri State
F28 Drake

Indiana State
N18-21 Top of the World Classic
N27 Ball State
D1 at Butler
D4 at Austin Peay
D7 Western Illinois
D10-11 Indiana Classic
D19 Eastern Illinois
D22 Tennessee State
D30 Wichita State
J6 Creighton
J8 at Bradley
J12 at Illinois State
J15 Southwest Missouri State
J19 Southern Illinois
J22 Drake
J27 at Wichita State
J29 at Drake
F2 Illinois State
F6 at Southwest Missouri State
F9 at Northern Iowa
F12 Evansville
F16 at Creighton
F19 Northern Iowa
F23 at Southern Illinois
F26 at Evansville
F28 Bradley

Northern Iowa
N13 at Alabama
N14 at Air Force
N23 UMKC
N27 Tennessee State
D2 Wisconsin-Green Bay
D4 at Wright State
D7 Iowa
D11 Bowling Green State
D19 at Iowa State
D29 at Texas-Pan American
J2 Creighton
J5 at Southwest Missouri State
J9 at Drake
J12 Bradley
J15 Illinois State
J17 Evansville
J22 at Wichita State
J26 at Creighton
J29 at Illinois State
F3 Southern Illinois
F5 at Bradley
F9 Indiana State
F12 Southwest Missouri State
F17 at Southern Illinois
F19 at Indiana State
F23 at Evansville
F26 Drake
F28 Wichita State

Southern Illinois
N20 Western Kentucky
N24 at Ball State
N28 at Long Beach State
D4 Santa Clara
D8 Evansville
D11 at Illinois-Chicago
D18 at Southwest Missouri State
D21-23 Puerto Rico Classic
D30 UT-Martin
J2 Southeast Missouri State
J5 at Illinois State
J8 Creighton
J12 at Saint Louis
J16 at Wichita State
J19 at Indiana State
J22 Bradley
J26 Drake
J29 at Evansville
F3 at Northern Iowa
F5 at Drake
F10 Wichita State
F12 Illinois State
F17 Northern Iowa
F19 at Creighton
F23 Indiana State
F26 at Bradley
F28 Southwest Missouri State

SW Missouri State
N20 New Orleans
N25-28 Hawaii Pacific Thanksgiving Cl.
D3-4 Pizza Hut Classic
D7 at Tulsa
D11 at Texas Christian
D18 Southern Illinois
D22 at Missouri-Kansas City
D29 at Creighton
J2 Saint Louis
J5 Northern Iowa
J8 Texas Christian
J12 Wichita State
J15 at Indiana State
J19 Creighton
J22 at Illinois State
J26 Evansville
J30 at Bradley
F2 at Wichita State
F6 Indiana State
F10 Drake
F12 at Northern Iowa
F16 at Evansville
F19 Bradley
F23 at Drake
F26 Illinois State
F28 at Southern Illinois

Wichita State
N19 McNeese State
N27 Prairie View A&M
D1 at Oklahoma State
D4 Pepperdine
D6 Alaska-Fairbanks
D17 at Washington
D21 Stony Brook
D30 at Indiana State
J2 at Evansville
J5 Bradley
J10 Wyoming
J12 at Southwest Missouri State
J16 Southern Illinois
J19 at Bradley
J22 Northern Iowa
J27 Indiana State
J29 at Creighton
F2 Southwest Missouri State
F5 Evansville
F8 Centenary
F10 at Southern Illinois
F12 Drake
F16 Illinois State
F19 at Drake
F23 at Illinois State
F26 Creighton
F28 at Northern Iowa

Coach: Kurt Kanaskie (15-67, 3 years; 222-174 overall, 14 years).
1998-99 record: 10-17. MVC: 5-13/10th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Abdul Collier, G (transferred/Philadelphia Textile); Kareem Lee, G (11.8 mpg; transferred/Quinnipiac).
Starters returning: Matt Woodley, G, 5-11/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 2.9 apg, 78.6 FT%, 2.5 spg, 30.7 mpg); Dontay Harris, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 32.1 mpg); Aaron Deeter, C, 6-8/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 35.6 3-pt%, 27.0 mpg); Armand LeVasseur, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 1.0 spg, 30.7 mpg); Justin Ohl, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 45.1 FG%, 1.1 spg, 18.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Joey Gaw, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 18.1 mpg); Aaron Thomas, F, 6-4/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 22.1 mpg); Jonathan Anderson, G, 6-3/Soph.
Top newcomers: Greg Danielson, C, 6-9/Fr.; Andrew Pleick, G, 6-4/Fr.; Jason Sarchet, F, 6-8/Fr.; Lamont Evans, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Bulldogs return all five starters, plus a number of reserves, so lack of experience can't be an excuse. Although the Bulldogs showed improvement, they need to learn to win on the road (0-10 last year) if they want to move from the bottom of the standings. The Bulldogs will rely on returning three-year starters Woodley and LeVasseur for leadership. Woodley is one of the scrappier players in the Valley and gets a lot of his points and steals from pure hustle. LeVasseur provides an outside scoring threat. Junior-college transfer Evans, who ranked third in the national junior-college ranks in assists, will bolster the Bulldogs' backcourt attack. Harris and Deeter provide the Bulldogs with a solid one-two punch on the front line, with assistance from returnees Gaw, Ohl and Thomas. Harris was second in the league in rebounding last season, and Deeter again will man the center spot. Drake will need its inside big men to improve on the boards and tighten its defense.
Last league title: 1971.
Last NCAA appearance: 1971.
Site: Des Moines, Iowa. **Home court:** Knapp Center (7,002).

10 NORTHERN IOWA
National Rank: 235

Coach: Sam Weaver (9-18, 1 year; 29-76 overall, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 9-18. MVC: 6-12/T8th.
Starters lost: Tony Brus, G (13.3 ppg, 52.6 FG%, 1.4 spg, 33.9 mpg).
Others lost: Marius Boyd, G (transferred).
Starters returning: Joe Breakenridge, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 54.9 FG%, 83.8 FT%, 1.2 spg, 33.4 mpg); Cory Jenkins, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 52.5 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Robbie Sieverding, G, 6-0/Jr. (15.6 ppg, 79.0 FT%, 44.7 3-pt%, 1.1 spg, 34.2 mpg); Sean Stackhouse, G, 6-1/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 76.6 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 1.1 spg, 29.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Aaron Middendorf, G, 6-6/Soph. (5.7 ppg, 19.4 mpg); Tyler Peterson, C, 7-0/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 18.0 mpg); Andy Woodley, G, 5-8/Soph. (13.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Martin Coon, G, 6-4/Soph. (transfer); Slaven Markovic, F, 6-8/Fr.; Cloy Miller, G, 6-1/Fr.; Derek Paben, F, 6-7/Fr.; Blake Anderson, F, 6-9/Soph. (JC); David Bivins, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Kelvin Hill, G,k 6-1/Jr. (JC); Arlando McHenry, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Northern Iowa's outlook is cloudy because of off-guard Stackhouse's status. Stackhouse, one of the better perimeter players and scorers in the conference, was listed on the Panthers' preseason roster, but his status was unclear because of a brush with the law in the offseason. If he is eligible to play and the Panthers get a better grasp on Weaver's philosophy, they could move very easily out of the cellar. The Panthers figure to go with a three-guard lineup much of the time. Returnees Sieverding and Woodley figure to get the bulk of the playing time at point guard, but both can play off-guard. Returnees Jenkins, seven-footer Peterson and junior-college transfer Bivins will share the chores at center and power forward. Breakenridge, who led the league in rebounding, is a lock at small forward, but he will get help from Middendorf and Jenkins. A lack of a consistent defensive effort and rebounding, aside from Breakenridge, were the Panthers' two weakest areas. They must improve in both areas.
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Cedar Falls, Iowa. **Home court:** UNI-Dome (10,000).

Ohio Valley

By Kevin Spain
Murfreesboro (Tenn.) News Journal

Predictions

1. Murray State
2. Southeast Missouri
3. Austin Peay
4. Middle Tennessee St.
5. Tennessee Tech
6. Morehead State
7. Eastern Illinois
8. Tennessee State
9. Eastern Kentucky
10. UT-Martin

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Aubrey Reese, Murray State	6-0	190	Jr.
G	Jamie Roberts, Tennessee State	6-3	180	Jr.
F/G	Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay	6-5	195	Jr.
F	Rod Murray, Murray State	6-7	190	Jr.
F	Isaac Spencer, Murray State	6-6	215	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Kyle Hill, Eastern Illinois	6-2	176	Jr.
G	Nick Stapleton, Austin Peay	6-1	165	Jr.
C	Lee Nosse, Middle Tennessee	6-10	250	Jr.
F/G	Fernando Ortiz, Middle Tennessee	6-5	175	Jr.
F	Roderick Johnson, SE Missouri	6-6	215	Sr.

Player of the Year

Isaac Spencer, F, Murray State

Newcomer of the Year

Fernando Ortiz, F/G, Middle Tennessee

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Roderick Johnson, Southeast Missouri
Best rebounder: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay
Best playmaker: Corey Hemphill, Tennessee Tech
Best defender: Aubrey Reese, Murray State
Best leaper: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay
Most versatile: Trenton Hassell, Austin Peay
Most flamboyant: Isaac Spencer, Murray State
Best NBA prospect: Isaac Spencer, Murray State

RANK 18

1 MURRAY STATE
National Rank: 61

Coach: Tevester Anderson (27-6, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 27-6. OVC: 16-2/1st.
Starters lost: Duane Virgil, C (11.3 ppg; 6.0 rpg; 56.2 FG%).
Others lost: Michael Floyd, F (2.4 ppg; 2.9 rpg); Marvin Gay, F (3.9 ppg; 2.7 rpg).
Starters returning: Rod Murray, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg; 5.0 rpg); Aubrey Reese, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.7 ppg; 5.0 rpg; 4.9 apg); Isaac Spencer, F, 6-6/Jr. (16.0 ppg; 7.1 rpg; 2.4 apg; 52.7 FG%); Marlon Towns, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.4 ppg; 4.2 rpg).
Other returnees: Ray Cunningham, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.5 ppg; 2.9 rpg); Aaron Page, G, 6-5/Sr. (2.5 ppg; 1.5 rpg); Michael Turner, F, 6-7/Sr. (2.0 ppg).
Top newcomers: Chiwale Bedeau, F, 6-8/Fr.; Lennart Christiansen, C, 6-11/Fr.; Kevin Paschel, G, 5-10/Fr.; Chris Shumate, G, 6-5/Fr.; Antoine Whelchel, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: No team in the league expects to win more than Murray State. The Racers have the nation's longest winning streak (43 games) and have won or shared the OVC title in 11 of the last 12 years. With four starters back (all seniors), they should make it 12 of 13. Spencer is a powerful player who can dominate a game. Reese, who hit the winning jumper in the league championship game last season, is the OVC's most consistent point guard. Murray has the skills to be a force inside. If there is a shortcoming on this team, it would be a lack of depth.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1996.
Site: Murray, Ky. **Home court:** Regional Special Events Center (8,600).

2 SE MISSOURI STATE
National Rank: 87

Coach: Gary Garner (34-22, 2 years; 282-185 overall, 16 years).
1998-99 record: 20-9. OVC: 15-3/2nd.
Starters lost: Kahn Cotton, G (8.4 ppg; 3.3 apg); Bud Eley, C (15.4 ppg; 10.7 rpg, 2.2 apg); Cory Johnson, G (10.5 ppg; 1.7 apg).
Others lost: Nathan Owen, G (transfer); Demetrius Watson, F (3.9 ppg; 2.8 rpg).
Starters returning: Mike Branson, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.7 ppg; 4.3 rpg); Rod Johnson, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.2 ppg; 5.9 rpg).
Other returnees: Fred Abraham, G, 6-0/Soph. (2.9 ppg; 1.3 apg); Brian Bunche, C, 6-8/Sr. (3.4 ppg; 3.1 rpg); Matt Morris, G, 6-2/Jr.
Top newcomers: Nyah Jones, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Tim Scheer, F, 6-6/Fr.; Antonio Short, G, 6-2, Jr. (JC); Mike Stokes, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Indians had the OVC championship won last season until Murray State's Reese broke their hearts with a shot at the buzzer. If they can bounce back from that disappointment, and if the incoming recruiting class—which was rated 39th by one basketball service— produces, the team can make another run at the title. Johnson, playing in the shadow of 7-footer Eley last year, was the Indians' second-leading scorer and rebounder. Branson caught fire in the OVC tournament, scoring 50 points in three games and leading his team in the championship game. But the Indians lost both guards and will count on junior-college transfers.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo. **Home court:** Show Me Center (7,000).

3 AUSTIN PEAY
National Rank: 98

Coach: Dave Loos (121-135, 9 years; 203-188 overall, 13 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. OVC: 9-9/T3rd.
Starters lost: Scott Combs, F/C (6.8 ppg; 5.3 rpg); Jerome Jackson, F (15.0 ppg; 5.1 rpg).
Others lost: Andrew Dagner, F/C (transfer); Willie Ivory, F/G (transfer).
Starters returning: Trenton Hassell, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (17.8 ppg; 9.3 rpg; 3.8 apg); Nick Stapleton, G, 6-1/Jr. (13.6 ppg; 2.1 rpg); James Stewart, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (8.8 ppg; 2.7 rpg).
Other returnees: ; Kevin Easley, G, 6-1/Soph. (1.1 ppg); J.J. Halliburton, G, 5-8/Sr. (1.2 ppg; 1.1 rpg); Mike Head, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (3.6 ppg; 2.9 rpg); Jeremy Qualls, G, 6-2/Sr. (1.2 ppg); Joey Tuck, G, 6-2/Sr. (1.3 ppg).
Top newcomers: Curtis Harris, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Theanthony Haymon, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Matt Jakeway, G, 6-3/Fr.; Josh Lewis, C, 6-8/Fr.; Igor Macura, F, 6-7/Fr.; Joe Williams, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: On paper, this team is talented enough to win the championship. It came on strongly at the end of last season only to be upset in the first round of the OVC tournament. If the guards have matured after their first year of starting and can stay in control, the Governors will challenge Murray State. But they play out of control at times, usually at crucial times.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Clarksville, Tenn. **Home court:** Dunn Center (9,000).

4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
National Rank: 129

Coach: Randy Wiel (50-40, 3 years; 82-90 overall, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 12-19. OVC: 9-9/T3rd.
Starters lost: Richard Duncan, G (9.1 ppg; 3.1 rpg); Ali McGhee, G (8.6 ppg; 3.0 rpg).
Others lost: Kent Ayer, G (3.8 ppg; 1.8 rpg); Allen Hatchett, G (2.2 ppg); Reggie Marshall, G (1.1 ppg).
Starters returning: Lee Nosse, C, 6-10/Jr. (10.4 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 1.9 bpg); Dale Thomas, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.3 ppg; 3.8 rpg); Cedrick Wallace, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.8 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 2.1 apg).
Other returnees: Johnny Cobb, C, 6-9/Sr. (1.7 ppg; 2.0 rpg); Gerald King, F, 6-4/Jr. (9.6 ppg; 3.0 rpg); Freddie Martinez, G, 6-5/Jr. (9.8 ppg; 2.6 rpg); Ellious Swangian, F, 6-7/Sr. (3.4 ppg; 2.1 rpg); Kevin White, G, 6-2/Jr. (3.0 ppg).
Top newcomers: Kenyata Chisholm, G, 6-0/Fr.; Ron McKnight, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Fernando Ortiz, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Jonathan Whitworth, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Wiel heard some rumblings last year when the team dropped off after winning 19 games in each of his first two seasons. But this year's team is more his style, featuring a solid big man and better-than-average perimeter scoring. This might be the first team to run the Carolina-style offense he wants to use. Nosse is the dominant big man in the league. He can go strong to the hole or can shoot the ball with a nice touch. There should be four newcomers who immediately get playing time. This could hamper the Blue Raiders early, especially with Kansas and Tennessee on the schedule before Christmas.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn. **Home court:** Hale Arena (11,500).

5 TENNESSEE TECH
National Rank: 152

Coach: Jeff Lebo (12-15, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 12-15. OVC: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost: Wesley Whitehorn, F (7.0 ppg; 6.5 rpg).
Others lost: Ronnie Braxton, G (1.8 ppg); Arnaldo Febres, F (2.9 ppg; 2.1 rpg); Reggie Nelson, F (6.8 ppg; 4.2 rpg); Ricardo Woodfine, G (2.1 ppg; 1.6 rpg).
Starters returning: Eric Akins, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.7 ppg; 4.3 rpg); Josh Heard, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.6 ppg; 37.4 3-pt.%); Corey Hemphill, G, 6-1/Sr. (15.9 ppg; 5.0 apg; 3.4 rpg); Joey Westmoreland, F, 6-6/Soph. (7.7 ppg; 4.5 rpg).
Other returnees: DeAntoine Beasley, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.1 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 26.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Trey Ferguson, G, 6-5/Fr.; Leigh Gayden, G, 5-10/Fr.; Jason Harrell, F, 6-7/Fr.; Darrell Moore, F, 6-5/Jr.; Larrie Smith, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Rusty Strange, C, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: Lebo has come in and made a difference quickly as the Golden Eagles' coach. He was able to coax Ferguson out of a commitment to Indiana. He has a solid nucleus returning and a talented incoming class. If that group can gel, Tech will challenge for its first conference title. The guard tandem of Hemphill and Heard accounted for almost 50 percent of the Golden Eagles' offense last season; both were members of the All-Newcomer team.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1963.
Site: Cookeville, Tenn. **Home court:** Eblen Center (10,100).

6 MOREHEAD STATE
National Rank: 226

Coach: Kyle Macy (16-38, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 13-15. OVC: 9-9/T3rd.
Starters lost: Erik Brown, F (19.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.6 spg/transferred to Louisville); Ted Docks, G (78.8 FT%, 4.4 apg).

Others lost: Chris Berry, G (44.4 3-pt.%); Dewayne Krom, C (5.3 ppg, 47.0 FG%, 77.3 FT%).
Starters returning: Scott Charity, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 51.4 FG%, 1.1 spg); Brad Cleaver, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 86.2 FT%, 41.5 3-pt.%, 4.8 apg, 1.9 spg); Kyle Umberger, F, 6-7/So. (9.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 52.1 FG%, 40.0 3-pt.%).
Other returnees: Brett Bohanan, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 47.5 FG%, 44.5 3-pt.%); Jeremy Webb, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 37.7 3-pt.%, 1.5 spg).
Top newcomers: Justin Cornell, G, 6-5/Fr.; Bernard Evans, F, 6-5/Jr.; Greg Hendricks, G, 6-2/Jr.; Billy Howell, C, 6-10/Fr.; Quentin Smith, F, 6-5/Jr.; Marquis Sykes, G, 5-11/Fr.; Travis Williams, F, 6-4/Fr.
Outlook: The Eagles made the most dramatic improvement of any team in the league last year, winning 10 more games than the previous season. They return three starters off that group and the league's best sixth man in Bohanan. Bohanan and Cleaver each shot better than 40 percent from 3-point range. MSU led the league and was 15th nationally from 3-point range. But rown, who led the OVC in scoring last season, bolted for Louisville in the offseason, leaving a lot of bitter feelings in his wake. That loss could devastate the Eagles' rebuilding project. More than 80 percent of their scoring came from outside the paint.
Last league title: 1984.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Morehead, Ky. **Home court:** Ellis T. Johnson Arena (6,500).

7 EASTERN ILLINOIS
National Rank: 253

Coach: Rick Samuels (275-270, 19 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-16. OVC: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost: Keith Hibbler, F (2.9 ppg; 4.1 rpg); Jack Owens, G (11.7 ppg; 3.8 rpg; 5.4 apg); Michael Shaver, C (3.8 ppg; 2.7 rpg).
Others lost: Greg Ktistou, G (4.6 ppg; 1.8 apg).
Starters returning: Kyle Hill, G, 6-2/Jr. (16.6 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 2.7 apg; 1.8 spg); Marc Polite, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.3 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 1.1 spg).
Other returnees: Michael Forrest, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.1 ppg; 2.2 rpg); Merve Joseph, F, 6-4/Jr. (6.1 ppg; 5.7 rpg); Luke Sharp, F, 6-8/Soph. (3.1 ppg; 2.4 rpg); John Smith, C, 6-7/Sr. (7.0 ppg; 3.8 rpg).
Top newcomers: Henry Domercant, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Rod Henry, G, 6-3/Fr.; Craig Lewis, G, 6-1/Fr.; Jan Thompson, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS).
Outlook: This year's bunch will knock one of the top teams off at a crucial time, but it might be a year or two away from making a serious title run. Polite is a three-year starter who has an accurate outside shot and slick moves to the basket. Though small, Hill can score big. He has an ability to keep his team in games with his 3-point shooting. But the Panthers are, as usual, small.
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Charleston, Ill. **Home court:** Lantz Gym (5,600).

8 TENNESSEE STATE
National Rank: 261

Coach: Frankie Allen (108-118, 8 years; 164-179 overall, 12 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-15. OVC: 9-9/T3rd.
Starters lost: Jason Johnson, C (13.1 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 50.0 3-pt.%, 32.2 mpg); Brian Williams, G (4.7 ppg, 77.8 FT%, 4.0 apg, 1.0 spg, 25.4 mpg); Corey Williams, F (12.7 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 45.8 FG%, 76.2 FT%, 2.0 spg, 32.5 mpg).
Others lost: Julian Bankston, C (5.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 18.1 mpg); Rayan Beane, C; Darwin Carter, G (8.1 ppg, 75.9 FT%, 1.4 spg, 25.6 mpg); Bryant Herbert, F; DeMario Jones, F (13.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 24.7 mpg); George Parker, G (4.9 ppg, 38.0 3-pt.%, 12.9 mpg); Harold Spencer, G.
Starters returning: Ralph Martin, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 66.7 3-pt.%, 20.2 mpg); Jamie Roberts, G, 6-3/Jr. (17.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 75.8 FT%, 35.4 3-pt.%, 33.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Leon Murray, F, 6-3/Jr. (1.2 spg, 22.8 mpg); Kevin Samuel, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS); John Strong, G, 6-3/Jr.
Top newcomers: Justin Wingfield, C, 6-11/Fr.
Outlook: This is the first time since early this decade that TSU hasn't been picked as one of the top teams in the league. But this might also be the first year it doesn't disappoint. The Tigers usually founder early, get hot late and fizzle in the end. Roberts can take over a game with his scoring ability. He has the capability of carrying the Tigers on his back. Former freshman of the year Samuel, who missed last season with grade problems, returns. Roberts can shoot TSU out of games as well. He has a tendency to put the ball up before his team is ready, causing TSU to give up a lot of fast-break points. The Tigers are still searching for someone to step up as a team leader.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Gentry Center (11,000).

9 EASTERN KENTUCKY
National Rank: 269

Coach: Scott Perry (13-40, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 3-23. OVC: 2-16/10th.
Starters lost: Darius Acuff, G (12.3 ppg; 4.5 apg); Ibrahim Myles, C (7.2 ppg; 5.8 rpg); Warren Stukes, F (3.9 ppg; 4.5 rpg).
Others lost: Damon Allison, G (1.4 rpg); Chris Fitzgerald, G (6.3 ppg; 1.5 rpg); Brandon Staggs, G.
Starters returning: Darick Mattox, F, 6-8/Sr. (10.8 ppg; 5.5 rpg); Whitney Robinson, G, 5-11/Soph. (17.8 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 2.8 apg).
Other returnees: Keanan Weir, F, 6-6/Soph. (3.7 ppg; 3.8 rpg).
Top newcomers: Brad Borgman, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Garnett, C, 6-10/Fr.; Sam Hoskin, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (Prop 48); Lavoris Jerry, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Phillippe Langlois, G, 6-2/Fr.; Will Morris, F, 6-4/Soph. (Prop 48); Ricardo Thomas, F, 6-7/Fr.; John White, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Robinson was the third-leading scorer in the OVC as a freshman last year. He stepped up after the Colonels lost several key players before the season began. Mattox is a solid rebounder. But just three lettermen return from the most underachieving team in the league. Perry is a noted recruiter, but so far he has had a hard time keeping players in school once he gets them there. Despite those problems, EKU will be hard-pressed to be as bad as a year ago, when it was picked to be one of the top teams and won three games. The Colonels will have to be more disciplined if they are to win any big games.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Richmond, Ky. **Home court:** McBrayer Arena (6,500).

10 UT-MARTIN
National Rank: 279

Coach: Bret Campbell (1st year).
1998-99 record: 8-18. OVC: 5-13/9th.
Starters lost: Joe Crumby, F (11.3 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 2.2 apg); Ryan DeMichael, F/C (15.7 ppg; 8.8 rpg; 2.8 apg); Sean Griffin, G (8.7 ppg; 3.2 rpg/transferred); Jason Ohlsen, G (10.3 ppg; 2.1 apg).
Others lost: Adam Hassett, F (1.5 ppg).
Starters returning: Andrae Betts, G, 5-9/Soph. (10.7 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 5.2 apg).
Other returnees: Steve Jordan, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (1.8 ppg).
Top newcomers: Byron Benton, F/C, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jared Bledsoe, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Okechi Egbe, G, 6-5/Fr.; Donald Elder, F/C, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Hayden Prescott, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); John Roos, G, 6-0/Fr.; Steve Sensabaugh, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Dexter Webb, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Lee Williamson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Betts is one of the better point guards in the league. He was second in the OVC in assists as a freshman. New coach Campbell isn't a stranger to the OVC. He was an assistant coach at Austin Peay for the last seven years. The question is, can anybody here play? The Skyhawks lost four starters to graduation and have just two lettermen back. The roster is dotted with junior-college transfers and question marks.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Martin, Tenn. **Home court:** Skyhawk Arena (6,700).

Ohio Valley Schedules

Austin Peay
N22 Arkansas State
N27 Belmont
D2 Murray State
D4 Indiana State
D11 UT-Martin
D15 at UNLV
D18 Lee College
D20 Webster Univ.
D29-30 Wis.-Green Bay Tournament
J6 at Eastern Illinois
J8 at SE Missouri State
J13 Eastern Kentucky
J15 Morehead State
J18 at Murray State
J20 at Middle Tennessee
J22 at Tennessee Tech
J29 at Tennessee State
F3 Eastern Illinois
F5 SE Missouri State
F8 at UT-Martin
F10 at Eastern Kentucky
F12 at Morehead State
F17 Middle Tennessee
F19 Tennessee Tech
F22 at Belmont
F26 Tennessee State

Eastern Illinois
N21 at Iowa
N23 at Nebraska
N29 Wis.-Milwaukee
D2 at Middle Tennessee
D4 at Tennessee Tech
D7 Butler
D11 at Western Illinois
D18 at Indiana State
D20 Elmhurst
D30 at Evansville
J6 Austin Peay
J8 Tennessee State
J13 at Murray State
J15 at UT-Martin
J18 Middle Tennessee
J22 at SE Missouri State
J27 Eastern Kentucky
J29 Morehead State
F3 at Austin Peay
F5 at Tennessee State
F8 Tennessee Tech
F10 Murray State
F12 UT-Martin
F15 Illinois College
F19 SE Missouri State
F24 at Eastern Kentucky
F26 at Morehead State

Eastern Kentucky
N20 at Belmont
N27 Wilmington College
N30 Loyola-Chicago
D4 at Morehead State
D11 Shawnee State
D19 at Ohio State
D22 American
D28 at UNLV
D30 at Cal State Fullerton
J3 at Detroit
J6 Middle Tennessee
J8 Tennessee Tech
J13 at Austin Peay
J15 at Tennessee State
J18 Morehead State
J20 Murray State
J22 UT-Martin
J27 at Eastern Illinois
J29 at SE Missouri State
F3 at Middle Tennessee
F5 at Tennessee Tech
F10 Austin Peay
F12 Tennessee State
F17 at Murray State
F19 at UT-Martin
F24 Eastern Illinois
F26 SE Missouri State

Morehead State
N19 at St. Francis (Pa.)
N23 Clinch Valley
N27 at Minnesota
N30 St. Francis (Ind.)
D4 Eastern Kentucky
D7 Wright State
D11 Asbury
D18 Georgia Tech
D20 at Jacksonville St.
D30 at E. Tennessee St.
J6 Tennessee Tech
J8 Middle Tennessee
J13 at Tennessee State
J15 at Austin Peay
J18 at Eastern Kentucky
J20 UT-Martin
J22 Murray State
J27 at SE Missouri State
J29 at Eastern Illinois
F3 at Tennessee Tech
F5 at Middle Tennessee
F10 Tennessee State
F12 Austin Peay
F17 at UT-Martin
F19 at Murray State
F24 SE Missouri State
F26 Eastern Illinois

Middle Tennessee
N22 Tennessee Temple
N27 Marist
D2 Eastern Illinois
D5 Kansas
D10 at Tennessee
D20 Martin Methodist
D23 at Central Florida
D30 at Campbell
J6 at Eastern Kentucky
J8 at Morehead State
J10 SE Missouri State
J13 Belmont
J15 at Tennessee Tech
J18 at Eastern Illinois
J20 Austin Peay
J22 Tennessee State
J27 at Murray State
J29 at UT-Martin
F3 Eastern Kentucky
F5 Morehead State
F8 at SE Missouri State
F12 Tennessee Tech
F17 at Austin Peay
F19 at Tennessee State
F24 Murray State
F26 UT-Martin

Murray State
N20 Colorado-Colorado Springs
N26-28 Hoop & Quill Classic
D2 at Austin Peay
D4 Detroit
D7 at Western Kentucky
D11 Alabama State
D16 at South Alabama
D28-29 Sun Bowl Classic
J3 at Purdue
J8 at UT-Martin
J13 Eastern Illinois
J15 SE Missouri State
J18 Austin Peay
J20 at Eastern Kentucky
J22 at Morehead State
J27 Middle Tennessee
J29 Tennessee Tech
F1 at Tennessee State
F5 UT-Martin
F8 Tennessee State
F10 at Eastern Illinois
F12 at SE Missouri State
F17 Eastern Kentucky
F19 Morehead State
F24 at Middle Tennessee
F26 at Tennessee Tech

Southeast MO State
N19 Western Carolina
N22 Rockhurst
N27 Montana
D2 at Tennessee Tech
D4 Oakland City
D10-11 Montana Tournament
D18 Arkansas State
D21 at Bradley
J2 at Southern Illinois
J6 Tennessee State
J8 Austin Peay
J10 at Middle Tennessee
J13 at UT-Martin
J15 at Murray State
J18 Tennessee Tech
J22 Eastern Illinois
J27 Morehead State
J29 Eastern Kentucky
F3 at Tennessee State
F5 at Austin Peay
F8 Middle Tennessee
F10 UT-Martin
F12 Murray State
F19 at Eastern Illinois
F24 at Morehead State
F26 at Eastern Kentucky

UT-Martin
N19-21 Hawaii Voice Stream Tournament
N27 at Vanderbilt
N29 Christian Brothers
D2 Bethel
D11 at Austin Peay
D14 at LSU
D16 at Evansville
D21 at UAB
D30 at Southern Illinois
J3 Butler
J8 Murray State
J13 SE Missouri State
J15 Eastern Illinois
J18 Tennessee State
J20 at Morehead State
J22 at Eastern Kentucky
J27 Tennessee Tech
J29 Middle Tennessee
F5 at Murray State
F8 Austin Peay
F10 at SE Missouri State
F12 at Eastern Illinois
F17 Morehead State
F19 Eastern Kentucky
F21 at Tennessee State
F24 at Tennessee Tech
F26 at Middle Tennessee

Tennessee State
N19 Knoxville College
N27 at Northern Iowa
D1 at Georgia
D4-5 Hawaii Tournament
D16 Jacksonville State
D20 at Louisville
D22 at Indiana State
D29-30 Dr Pepper Classic
J3 at Wright State
J6 at SE Missouri State
J8 at Eastern Illinois
J13 Morehead State
J15 Eastern Kentucky
J18 at UT-Martin
J20 at Tennessee Tech
J22 at Middle Tennessee
J29 Austin Peay
F1 Murray State
F3 SE Missouri State
F5 Eastern Illinois
F8 at Murray State
F10 at Morehead State
F12 at Eastern Kentucky
F17 Tennessee Tech
F19 Middle Tennessee
F21 UT-Martin
F26 at Austin Peay

Tennessee Tech
N20 at Georgia Southern
N22 at Alabama
N27 UNC-Asheville
D2 SE Missouri State
D4 Eastern Illinois
D6 Georgia Southern
D12 at North Carolina
D20 Asbury
D28-29 Charleston Tourn.
J6 at Morehead State
J8 at Eastern Kentucky
J11 Toccoa Falls
J15 Middle Tennessee
J18 at SE Missouri State
J20 Tennessee State
J22 Austin Peay
J27 UT-Martin
J29 at Murray State
F3 Morehead State
F5 Eastern Kentucky
F8 at Eastern Illinois
F12 at Middle Tennessee
F17 at Tennessee State
F19 at Austin Peay
F24 UT-Martin
F26 Murray State

Southern

RANK 20

NORTHERN DIVISION

1 APPALACHIAN STATE
National Rank: 66

Coach: Buzz Peterson (56-30, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 21-8. Southern/Northern Division: 13-3/1st.
Starters lost: Blair Adderley, G/F (7.0 ppg, 1.2 spg, 26.7 mpg); Marshall Phillips, G/F (15.9 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 53.1 FG%, 2.2 spg, 28.5 mpg).
Others lost: Ian Adams, G; Mike Coffey, F/C (51.5 FG%, 10.6 mpg); Josh Grover, C (5.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 56.1 FG%, 19.3 mpg).
Starters returning: Cedrick Holmes, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 56.7 FG%, 1.2 spg, 24.4 mpg); Matt McMahon, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 45.5 3-pt%, 22.3 mpg); Tyson Patterson, G, 5-9/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 38.5 3-pt%, 5.3 apg, 2.6 spg, 30.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Shawn Alexander, G, 6-2/So. (6.9 ppg, 45.3 FG%, 44.8 3-pt%, 20.2 mpg); Jonathan Butler, G, 5-11/So. (55.6 FG%); Buddy Davis, F, 6-6/So. (4.1 ppg, 53.4 FG%); Seneca Fritts, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brian Boxler, C, 6-11/Fr.; Corey Cooper, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Nick Huge, G, 6-4/Fr.; Rufus Leach, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Mike Patten, F, 6-7/Fr.; Josh Sheehan, F, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: The Mountaineers again will be the league's best ballhandling team and among its best shooting teams. ASU should get consistent playmaking and big-play production at point guard, where Patterson brings the ability to penetrate, pass to the open man and pressure the perimeter defensively. His work helped two teammates rank among the league's top six field-goal shooters and helped McMahon rank third in 3-point shooting. In a league in which only three of the top 10 point guards return, Patterson will dominate most matchups. The graduation of Phillips and Adderley leaves Holmes and Davis to handle the rebounding. Limitations in the frontcourt make a third straight 21-win season unlikely, but the Mountaineers have enough weapons to win their division.
Last league title: 1981.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Boone, N.C. **Home court:** Varsity Gym (8,000).

2 DAVIDSON
National Rank: 107

Coach: Bob McKillop (154-131, 10 years).
1998-99 record: 16-11. Southern/Northern: 11-5/2nd.
Starters lost: Ali Ton, G (8.8 ppg, 7.6 apg, 2.8 spg, 32.8 mpg).
Others lost: Ben Ebong, F (11.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 35.0 3-pt.%, 1.5 spg, 25.0 mpg); Chadd Holmes, C (7.3 ppg, 53.6 FG%, 61.1 3-pt.%, 16.6 mpg).
Starters returning: Emeka Erege, F, 6-4/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 38.1 3-pt.%, 24.6 mpg); Davor Halbauer, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 35.5 3-pt.%, 1.0 spg, 27.7 mpg); Landry Kosmalski, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 38.5 3-pt.%, 27.8 mpg); Stephen Marshall, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 52.2 FG%, 82.1 FT%, 41.7 3-pt.%, 19.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Jeff Bergmann, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 14.3 mpg); Michael Bree, G, 6-0/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 37.0 3-pt.%, 14.4 mpg); Martin Ides, C, 7-2/So.; Brian Turner, G/F, 6-4/So.
Top newcomers: Wayne Bernard, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jason Dickens, F, 6-8/Fr.; Fernando Tonella, G, 6-0/Fr.
Outlook: An experienced frontcourt and a squad that looks deep and flexible puts another 16-win season easily within reach. Davidson returns four starters, including three of the league's better rebounders. Ton's graduation leaves the team searching for a leader and a productive point guard. His 7.6 apg led the league by more than two per game, and he was second in the league in steals. Kosmalski returns after leading the team in scoring last season. He was the only Wildcat to break the conference's top 20 in blocks, and his 8.6 rpg placed him second in the league. Kosmalski and Marshall, both seniors, will have to be Davidson's leaders and the team's strength inside. Erege is an excellent, unselfish wing player, and Halbauer, a senior from Croatia, is a zone-buster who can penetrate if given the opening.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Davidson, N.C. **Home court:** Belk Arena (5,700).

3 UNC-GREENSBORO
National Rank: 134

Coach: Fran McCaffery (first year; 49-39 overall, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 7-20. Southern/Northern Division: 5-11/5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Ray Henry, G; Justin Stewart, G/F (5.2 ppg, 15.6 mpg); Randy Woodard, F.
Starters returning: Sam Brinson, F/C, 6-6/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.7 spg, 1.6 bpg, 29.8 mpg); Nathan Jameson, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 86.7 FT%, 47.1 3-pt.%, 27.6 mpg); James Maye, F, 6-6/So. (10.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 42.0 3-pt.%, 1.0 spg, 28.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Aaron Chavis, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 21.7 mpg); Demetrius Cherry, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 10.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 29.2 mpg); Warren Cunningham, G, 6-2/Sr. (19.5 mpg); Courtney Eldridge, G, 5-9/So. (7.1 ppg, 46.3 FG%, 72.2 FT%, 36.8 3-pt.%, 1.1 spg, 20.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Nathan Popp, C, 7-1/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: McCaffery could help the Spartans avoid a repeat of last year's 7-20 season. Cherry, a powerful rebounder and inside scorer, will return for a senior season that was delayed by a foot injury. He joins Brinson and Chavis to form the conference's strongest frontcourt. Their experience should allow Popp to develop gradually. Eldridge should improve during his first full season as the team's starting point guard. Jameson will join Eldridge in the backcourt and serves as an adequate shooting guard. The Spartans have been slow in recent years, especially on defense, and they probably have not gotten much quicker since last spring. Expect them to struggle in the frontcourt, where the program lacks depth. The offense should improve with Cherry's return. His presence should give Jameson and Maye more looks, allowing them to have several 15-point games.
Last league title: 1996 (Big South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Fleming Gym (2,320).

4 WESTERN CAROLINA
National Rank: 198

Coach: Phil Hopkins (51-62, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 8-21. Southern/Northern Division: 2-14/6th.
Starters lost: Michael Plavich, G (10.0 ppg, 1.6 spg, 28.2 mpg).
Others lost: Joey Bryson, F (7.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 1.0 spg, 20.7 mpg); Stacy Ervin, G (8.3 mpg).
Starters returning: Michael Green, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 25.2 mpg); Cory Largent, F, 6-6/So. (9.2 ppg, 41.8 3-pt.%, 29.8 mpg); Casey Rogers, G, 6-0/So. (12.9 ppg, 75.3 FT%, 5.3 apg, 1.7 spg, 35.5 mpg); Dondrell Whitmore, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 1.2 spg, 33.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Colin Kearns, C, 6-9/So. (14.6 mpg); John Lewis, G, 6-4/So.; Todd Seibert, C, 6-9/Jr. (52.8 FG%, 9.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kori Hatcher, G, 6-0/Fr.; Jarvis Hayes, F, 6-6, Fr.; Jonas Hayes, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: High school teammates Rogers and Largent blossomed as two of the league's best freshmen last year. Rogers was especially productive, finishing second in the league in assists and 11th in scoring. Frontcourt scoring punch is needed to help Rogers, and a lack of overall quickness limits the defense. The Catamounts will find out early whether they can improve on last year's 8-21 record. WCU scheduled fearlessly out of conference, playing at Missouri in November and at Nebraska and N.C. State in December. Rogers on the outside (6-0, 170) and Largent (6-6, 200) on the inside are destined to be stars. With some help under the basket, they could carry Western up the league standings over the next three seasons.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Cullowhee, N.C. **Home court:** Ramsey Center (7,826).

By Abe Hardesty
Greenville (S.C.) News

Predictions

Northern Division	Southern Division
1. Appalachian State	1. Charleston
2. Davidson	2. UT-Chattanooga
3. UNC-Greensboro	3. Wofford
4. Western Carolina	4. Furman
5. East Tennessee State	5. Georgia Southern
6. VMI	6. The Citadel

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Ian Chadwick, Wofford	6-3	180	Jr.
G	Tyson Patterson, Appalachian St.	5-9	160	Sr.
F	Demetrius Cherry, UNC-Greensboro	6-8	275	Sr.
F	Jody Lumpkin, Charleston	6-8	246	Jr.
F	Stanislav Makshantsev, Furman	6-8	230	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	James Griffin, Charleston	6-2	190	So.
G	Matt McMahon, Appalachian St.	6-1	175	Sr.
F	Landry Kosmalski, Davidson	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Otis Donald, UT-Chattanooga	6-8	220	Jr.
F	Stephen Marshall, Davidson	6-8	225	Sr.

Player of the Year

Demetrius Cherry, F, UNC-Greensboro

Newcomer of the Year

James Griffin, G, Charleston

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Ian Chadwick, Wofford
Best rebounder: Demetrius Cherry, UNC-Greensboro
Best playmaker: Tyson Patterson, Appalachian State
Best defender: Tyson Patterson, Appalachian State
Best leaper: Jeff Bolton, Charleston
Most versatile: Aaron Demory, VMI
Most flamboyant: Jeff Bolton, Charleston
Best NBA prospect: Demetrius Cherry, UNC-Greensboro

More on Southern at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

5 EAST TENNESSEE
National Rank: 231

Coach: Ed DeChellis (35-46, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 17-11. Southern/Northern Division: 9-7/3rd.
Starters lost: Kyle Keeton, G (5.8 ppg, 46.4 FG%, 40.4 3-pt.%, 1.1 spg, 23.9 mpg); Greg Stephens, G (16.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 45.9 FG%, 77.4 FT%, 38.3 3-pt.%, 4.9 apg, 1.8 spg, 33.4 mpg); Reggie Todd, F (10.6 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 55.6 FG%, 1.1 apg, 28.0 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Wilson, F (57.4 FG%, 9.6 mpg).
Starters returning: D.J. McDuffie, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 36.1 3-pt.%, 1.8 apg, 1.0 spg, 27.3 mpg); Leo Murray, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 24.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Dimeco Childress, G, 6-3/So. (5.8 ppg, 48.3 FG%, 44.4 3-pt.%, 16.7 mpg); Gareth Davis, C, 6-10/Sr. (69.4 FG%); Gabe Lisicky, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 88.9 FT%, 37.3 3-pt.%, 15.8 mpg); Adrian Meeks, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 54.4 FG%, 15.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Deon Daniel, F, 6-3/So. (JC); Michael Griffith, G, 6-0/Fr.; Scooter Johnson, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Ryan Lawson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Isaac Potter, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: The chances of winning 17 games again are slim. The Bucs lost too many leaders, which will become apparent as the shot clock winds down. The team's lack of a proven post player will make its lack of a proven scorer and rebounder more obvious. Childress and Lisicky give the Bucs one of the quickest backcourts in the league. As a freshman, Childress showed explosive speed and the ability to hit 3-pointers. Meeks and Murray offer experience in the frontcourt. Childress must emerge as a go-to guy as a sophomore. Even if he does, the lack of interior quickness and size will make it tough for the Bucs to beat the league's stronger teams.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Johnson City, Tenn. **Home court:** Memorial Center (13,000).

6 VMI
National Rank: 270

Coach: Bart Bellairs (66-71, 5 years; 87-98 overall, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 12-15. Southern/Northern: 9-7/4th.
Starters lost: Jason Bell, G, 6-1/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 39.5 3-pt.%, 3.0 spg, 30.0 mpg); Matt Matheny, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.5 spg, 26.0 mpg).
Others lost: Zach Batte, F (17.3 mpg).
Starters returning: Aaron Demory, F, 6-3/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 2.0 spg, 27.4 mpg); Andre Quarles, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 1.0 spg, 24.7 mpg); Nick Richardson, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 25.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Richard Bruce, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 75.9 FT%, 14.6 mpg); Tim Cole, C, 6-9/So.; Mark Grigsby, G, 6-2/So.; Eric Mann, C, 6-9/Jr. (RS/knee); Renard Phillips, G, 5-7/So. (1.0 spg, 15.0 mpg); Aaron Trombley, F, 6-9/Jr. (9.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jeremy Harper, G, 6-2/Fr.; Adam Trombley, F, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: The Keydets, surprisingly competitive after starting 0-5 last fall, appear to lack the firepower they need to finish with a winning record. Quarles is a capable and experienced up-tempo point guard. Demory is a solid defender with aggressive moves to the basket. Nick Richardson made big strides during his first year in the post and should be better as he moves to his natural position at forward. Mann, who missed last season with a knee injury, brings experience to the middle. The loss of Bell, one of the league's best defenders and a guard who led VMI in scoring 20 times, leaves VMI without a proven floor leader or scorer. Depth is a problem everywhere. A Mann-Demory-Richardson frontcourt gives the Keydets a chance to be competitive, but unless Quarles gets some help scoring in the backcourt, VMI will finish below .500 in the conference for the first time in five years.
Last league title: 1977.
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Lexington, Va. **Home court:** Cameron Hall (5,029).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

1 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
National Rank: 78

Coach: John Kresse (493-121, 20 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 28-3. Southern/Southern: 16-0/1st. Lost to Tulsa in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost: Danny Johnson, G (12.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 40.2 3-pt.%, 1.1 bpg, 32.6 mpg); Shane McCravy, G (4.7 ppg, 5.0 apg, 1.9 spg, 29.2 mpg); Jermel President, G (11.0 ppg, 45.7 FG%, 89.5 FT%, 41.3 3-pt.%, 1.0 spg, 30.3 mpg); Sedric Webber, F/C (13.8 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 2.2 spg, 32.9 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Jody Lumpkin, C, 6-8/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 60.6 FG%, 1.0 spg, 2.1 bpg, 30.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Jeff Bolton, G, 6-3/So. (4.9 ppg, 54.5 FG%, 78.8 FT%, 46.9 3-pt%, 12.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Mike Benton, C, 6-9/Fr.; Leighton Bowie, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Shannon Chambers, F, 6-6/Fr.; Pat Davis, F, 6-6/Fr.; Nick Dyer, F, 6-7/Fr.; James Griffin, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Wake Forest); A.J. Harris, G, 6-0/Fr.; Mills Hawkins, G, 6-2/Fr.; Rodgie Leggett, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Derek Miller, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Tyrone Nelson, G, 6-5/So. (RS); Rudy Rothseiden, C/F, 6-8/Fr.; Marco Sanders, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Troy Wheless, G, 6-3/Fr.
Outlook: Despite the loss of eight seniors, the Cougars can expect another 20-win season, but even a lousy season will push Kresse past 500 wins. The Cougars will field one of the league's quickest teams and get inside size and strength from Lumpkin (6-8, 245). Lumpkin is a muscular post man who managed to play aggressively last season without getting into foul trouble. He led the league in field-goal percentage and tied for most blocked shots (66). On the perimeter, Bolton is a leaper and Griffin has the potential to average 20 ppg as a shooting guard. Nelson is an unproven point guard. Bolton and Griffin will not be eligible until the second semester, assuring the Cougars of an atypical slow start. Defensive skills abound, and the arrival of Griffin in January will be the perfect complement to Lumpkin's work under the basket.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1996.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** John Kresse Arena (3,500); North Charleston Coliseum (12,000).

2 UT-CHATTANOOGA
National Rank: 94

Coach: Henry Dickerson (29-27, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 16-12. Southern/Southern: 9-7/2nd.
Starters lost: Wes Moore, G (8.1 ppg, 75.5 FT%, 39.8 3-pt.%, 1.8 spg, 30.7 mpg).
Others lost: Chuck Barker, G (7.8 ppg, 87.5 FT%, 44.3 3-pt.%, 16.2 mpg); Francisco Colon, F (8.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 75.9 FT%, 42.6 3-pt.%, 23.6 mpg); Isaac Conner, G (5.0 ppg, 15.4 mpg); Juraj Grabaric, G (36.8 3-pt.%).
Starters returning: Rashun Coleman, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 52.4 FG%, 43.2 3-pt.%, 1.0 spg, 23.4 mpg); Oliver Morton, C, 6-10/Jr. (8.7 ppg, 48.6 FG%, 22.0 mpg); David Phillips, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 81.5 FT%, 25.0 mpg); Mark Smith, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 49.7 FG%, 1.1 spg, 27.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Otis Donald, F, 6-8/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 56.9 FG%, 2.4 bpg, 21.1 mpg); Idris Harper, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 16.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: John Cape, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Greg Clark, F, 6-8/So. (JC); Clark Costa, F, 6-8/So. (JC); Rongie Cowser, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Alabama); Brian Dickerson, G, Fr.; Tim Parker, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); J.B. Watkins, G, 5-11/Fr. (RS).
Outlook: Dickerson says he thinks his third team will be better than his second. The Mocs' success depends on Phillips and the discovery of an up-tempo guard. Phillips is an all-conference caliber wing man when healthy. UTC has big-league beef up front, where 260-pounder Morton should make layups a rarity for opponents. Smith is an excellent defender who can penetrate for easy baskets. The Mocs have three point guards on the roster, but none with Division I experience. Cowser, a scoring guard in junior college, must become a point guard if the Mocs want to play fullcourt. Freshman Brian Dickerson, the coach's son, could step in if Cowser struggles with the transition game.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Chattanooga, Tenn. **Home court:** UTC Arena (11,218).

3 WOFFORD
National Rank: 165

Coach: Richard Johnson (199-180, 14 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. Southern/Southern: 8-8/3rd.
Starters lost: Donald Davis, G (10.2 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 77.6 FT%, 38.2 3-pt.%, 2.1 spg, 27.4 mpg); Alfred Forbes, F (13.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.8 spg, 1.0 bpg, 30.7 mpg).
Others lost: Terenthial White, F (51.3 FG%, 9.1 mpg; will concentrate on baseball).
Starters returning: Ian Chadwick, G, 6-3/Jr. (16.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 80.7 FT%, 42.9 3-pt.%, 1.1 spg, 33.4 mpg); Rashane DeLoach, C, 6-7/Sr. (4.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 59.0 FG%, 20.3 mpg); Starzee Walker, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 36.3 3-pt.%, 1.0 spg, 28.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Kenny Hastie, C, 6-8/Jr. (48.3 FG%, 12.0 mpg); Colon Largent, G, 6-3/So. (4.0 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 15.4 mpg); Jon Pryor, G, 6-0/Jr. (38.5 3-pt.%, 12.7 mpg); Bishop Ravenel, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Mike Lenzly, G, 6-3/Fr.; Edvin Masic, C, 6-10/Fr.; Lee Nixon, G, 6-3/Fr.; Grant Sterley, F, 6-7/Fr.
Outlook: The Terriers will go as far as the perimeter shooting of Chadwick and Walker can carry them. Chadwick, the only underclassman on last year's all-conference team, is one of the league's best perimeter shooters. He was ninth in 3-point percentage and second, by one, in total makes (78). Walker also shoots well from the outside. Rapid improvement has made center DeLoach a capable interior defender, rebounder and shooter. From the bench, coach Johnson is an expert strategist. The loss of Davis means n Pryor will play point. A lack of size again will limit the Terriers.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Spartanburg, S.C. **Home court:** Johnson Arena (3,500).

4 FURMAN
National Rank: 205

Coach: Larry Davis (21-36, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 12-16. Southern/Southern: 5-11/5th.
Starters lost: Daniel Quigley, C (11.7 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 52.8 FG%, 40.0 3-pt.%, 29.1 mpg); Bubba Smith, G (7.5 ppg, 75.5 FT%, 28.0 mpg).
Others lost: Will Coles, C (4.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 56.0 FG%, 80.0 FT%, 16.5 mpg); Terry McGann, G.
Starters returning: Marcus Dilligard, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 1.0 spg, 27.9 mpg); Stanislav Makshantsev, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 26.3 mpg); Anthony Thomas, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 24.6 mpg).
Other returnees: P.J. Brown, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.3 mpg); Paul Foster, G, 6-0/So. (38.7 3-pt.%, 17.4 mpg); Kyle Julius, G, 6-3/So. (8.3 ppg, 35.9 3-pt.%, 19.0 mpg); Stevan Petrovic, C, 6-11/So. (8.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Darrell Arbaugh, F, 6-7/Fr.; Willie Brown, G, 5-10/Fr.; Dusan Milicic, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Maurice Owens, G, 6-1/So. (RS); Jon Peddrick, G, 6-1/So. (RS); Karim Souchu, F, 6-6/Fr.; Kenny Zeigler, F, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: Davis begins his third year with more firepower than ever, and still just one senior. Much depends on the maturity of Foster, the health of Thomas, and the progress

Southern Schedules

Appalachian State
N19 at Georgia
N22 Tennessee Wesleyan
N27 Lees-McRae
D3-4 Marquette Tournament
D8 East Carolina
D18 at Pittsburgh
D20 at Robert Morris
D23 at Wis.-Green Bay
J3 at The Citadel
J8 Georgia Southern
J10 East Tennessee St.
J15 at East Tenn. St.
J17 VMI
J19 at Clemson
J22 at Furman
J24 at Western Carolina
J29 UT-Chattanooga
J31 at Davidson
F5 at Coll. of Charleston
F9 UNC-Greensboro
F12 Wofford
F14 at VMI
F19 Davidson
F22 at UNC-Greensboro
F26 Western Carolina

The Citadel
N23 Coastal Carolina
N27 at Winthrop
N30 Anderson College
D3-4 Northwestern Mutual Classic
D8 Stetson
D11 Emory
D17 Limestone
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic
D30 at Florida St.
J3 Appalachian St.
J8 Furman
J10 at Western Carolina
J15 at VMI
J17 UT-Chattanooga
J22 at Georgia Southern
J24 Wofford
J29 at Furman
J31 at Wofford
F5 Davidson
F7 at Coll. of Charleston
F12 Georgia Southern
F14 East Tennessee St.
F19 Coll. of Charleston
F21 at UT-Chattanooga
F26 at UNC-Greensboro

College of Charleston
N19 Tennessee Wesleyan
N23 Coker
D3-4 Food Lion MVP Classic
D11 Southern Wesleyan
D18 at SUNY-Stony Brook
D21 Armstrong Atlantic St.
D28-29 State Farm Good Neighbor Classic
J3 East Tennessee St.
J5 Charleston Southern
J8 at VMI
J10 at Wofford
J15 Davidson
J17 at Georgia Southern
J19 Coastal Carolina
J22 at UNC-Greensboro
J24 Furman
J29 Wofford
J31 at UT-Chattanooga
F5 Appalachian St.
F7 The Citadel
F12 at Furman
F14 Georgia Southern
F19 at The Citadel
F21 at Western Carolina
F26 UT-Chattanooga

Davidson
N16 at Siena
N20 Guilford
N22 Haverford
D1 at UNC-Charlotte
D8 at Elon
D18 Washington & Jefferson
D21 at Duke
D29-30 Stanford Classic
J2 at California
J8 at UNC-Greensboro
J10 at Furman
J15 at Coll. of Charleston
J17 Western Carolina
J19 Wofford
J22 VMI
J26 at East Tenn. St.
J29 UNC Greensboro
J31 Appalachian St.
F2 Wake Forest
F5 at The Citadel
F8 East Tennessee St.
F12 at Western Carolina
F14 UT Chattanooga
F19 at Appalachian St.
F21 at VMI
F26 Georgia Southern

East Tennessee State
N19 at Clemson
N23 Lynchburg
N27 at James Madison
N29 at Vanderbilt
D2 Virginia Tech
D4 at Xavier
D6 at Belmont
D9 James Madison
D18 at UNC-Asheville
D21 Montreat College
D30 Morehead St.
J3 at Coll. of Charleston
J8 Chattanooga
J10 at Appalachian St.
J15 Appalachian St.
J17 at UNC-Greensboro
J22 at Western Carolina
J25 Davidson
J29 at VMI
J31 Western Carolina
F5 Georgia Southern
F8 at Davidson
F12 VMI
F14 at The Citadel
F19 UNC-Greensboro
F21 at Furman
F26 Wofford

Furman
N22 Stetson
N26-28 Bi-Lo Tournament
D1 Fisk
D4 at South Carolina
D6 at Georgia
D8 at Charleston Southern
D11 Randolph-Macon
D16 Coastal Carolina
D18 Oglethorpe Univ.
D20 Bethune-Cookman
D23 at Minnesota
D30 Clemson
J3 at Georgia Southern
J8 at The Citadel
J10 Davidson
J15 at UT-Chattanooga
J17 Wofford
J22 Appalachian St.
J24 at Coll. of Charleston
J29 The Citadel
J31 at UNC-Greensboro
F5 UT-Chattanooga
F7 at Western Carolina
F12 Coll. of Charleston
F14 at Wofford
F19 Georgia Southern
F21 East Tennessee St.
F26 at VMI

Georgia Southern
N20 Tennessee Tech
N23 at Jacksonville
N27 at UAB
N29 at Jacksonville St.
D2 Winthrop
D6 at Tennessee Tech
D8 Mercer
D11 North Carolina
D18 at Oklahoma
D28-29 Capital City Classic
J3 Furman
J8 Appalachian St.
J10 UNC-Greensboro
J15 Wofford
J17 Coll. of Charleston
J22 The Citadel
J24 at UT-Chattanooga
J29 Western Carolina
J31 VMI
F5 at East Tennessee St.
F7 UT-Chattanooga
F12 at The Citadel
F14 at Coll. of Charleston
F18 at Furman
F21 Wofford
F26 Davidson

UNC-Greensboro
N20 at James Madison
N27 Northeastern
N29 Elon
D1 at Coastal Carolina
D4 Guilford
D6 Norfolk St.
D15 at Wake Forest
D18 at Evansville
D21 at Winthrop
D28 Georgia Tech
J4 VMI
J8 Davidson
J10 at Georgia Southern
J15 at Western Carolina
J17 East Tennessee St.
J19 North Carolina A&T
J22 Coll. of Charleston
J24 at VMI
J29 at Davidson
J31 Furman
F3 at Wofford
F9 at Appalachian St.
F12 at UT-Chattanooga
F14 Western Carolina
F19 at East Tennessee St.
F22 Appalachian St.
F26 The Citadel

UT-Chattanooga
N23 at Old Dominion
N26-27 Lobo Invitational
N30 Belmont-Abbey
D4 at Michigan
D16 Southern Tech
D18 at Alabama
D20 SMU
D23 St. Joseph's
D29-30 Dr Pepper Classic
J3 Western Carolina
J8 at East Tennessee St.
J10 VMI
J15 Furman
J17 at The Citadel
J22 at Wofford
J24 Georgia Southern
J29 Appalachian St.
J31 Coll. of Charleston
F5 at Furman
F7 at Georgia Southern
F12 UNC-Greensboro
F14 at Davidson
F19 Wofford
F21 The Citadel
F26 at Coll. of Charleston

VMI
N18 Southern Va. College
N20 Warren Wilson
N22 at Virginia
N26-28 Hawaii Invitational
D2 Ferrum
D4 Bluefield College
D6 Virginia Tech
D8 Old Dominion
D18 at Notre Dame
D21 at Va. Commonwealth
D28 at Florida
J4 UNC-Greensboro
J8 Coll. of Charleston
J10 at UT-Chattanooga
J15 The Citadel
J17 at Appalachian St.
J22 at Davidson
J24 UNC-Greensboro
J29 East Tennessee St.
J31 at Georgia Southern
F5 Western Carolina
F7 at Wofford
F12 at East Tennessee St.
F14 Appalachian St.
F19 at Western Carolina
F21 Davidson
F26 Furman

Western Carolina
N19 at SE Missouri St.
N21 at Missouri
N23 Lees-McRae
N27 Anderson
D1 UNC-Asheville
D3-4 Ameritas Classic
D11 Queens
D18 at Northwestern
D21 at Mercer
D30 at N.C. St.
J3 at UT-Chattanooga
J8 at Wofford
J10 The Citadel
J15 UNC-Greensboro
J17 at Davidson
J22 East Tennessee St.
J24 Appalachian St.
J29 at Georgia Southern
J31 at East Tenn. St.
F5 at VMI
F7 Furman
F12 Davidson
F14 UNC-Greensboro
F19 VMI
F21 Coll. of Charleston
F26 at Appalachian St.

Wofford
N19 at South Carolina
N21 at Clemson
N23 at West Virginia
N27 at Marquette
N29 Guilford
D1 King
D4 Anderson
D11 at Vanderbilt
D19 William & Mary
D21 at Georgia Tech
J5 Air Force
J8 Western Carolina
J10 Coll. of Charleston
J15 Georgia Southern
J17 at Furman
J19 Davidson
J22 UT-Chattanooga
J24 at The Citadel
J29 at Coll. of Charleston
J31 The Citadel
F3 UNC-Greensboro
F7 VMI
F12 at Appalachian St.
F14 Furman
F19 UT-Chattanooga
F21 at Georgia Southern
F26 at East Tennessee St.

of Petrovic. Petrovic, a 6-11 sophomore who has played only three basketball seasons at any level, was prone to fouls as a freshman. He will have to play 25-30 minutes a game to stop opponents from ganging up on Makshantsev. Makshantsev, a physical rebounder with a soft touch from 15 feet, can draw fouls inside. Milicic, who is less physical, is expected to contribute from the wing. Foster shared time at point guard last year, but he was not physically mature enough to handle the position. Thomas looked brilliant at times as a slasher and defender until a knee injury spoiled his freshman season. Dilligard is one of the league's best defenders and an experienced point guard, even though it is not his natural position.

Last league title: 1991 (tie).

Last NCAA appearance: 1980.

Site: Greenville, S.C. **Home court:** Timmons Arena (5,000).

5 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
National Rank: 243

Coach: Jeff Price (first year; 136-42 overall, 6 years).

1998-99 record: 11-17. Southern/Southern: 6-10/4th.

Starters lost: Fernando Daniel, G (13.6 ppg, 79.7 FT%, 38.9 3-pt.%, 33.5 mpg); Duane Goebel, F (5.0 ppg, 83.9 FT%, 19.6 mpg).

Others lost: Andre Wilkes, G/F.

Starters returning: Hamp Jones, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 55.4 FG%, 1.1 spg, 26.3 mpg); Kashien Latham, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 79.5 FT%, 1.1 bpg, 22.2 mpg); Quentin Martin, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 26.8 mpg).

Other returnees: Omar Gunn, G, 6-0/Jr.; Donta Humphries, G, 5-10/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 1.0 spg, 20.2 mpg); Edward Keith, F, 6-6/Soph. (9.7 mpg); DeMarlo Slocum, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 23.1 mpg); Wayne Wooley, F, 6-6/Soph.

Top newcomers: Julius Jenkins, G, Fr.; Todd Shipley, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Greg Spurgeon, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); RaShawn Tart, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Kerry Willis, G, 6-0/Fr.

Outlook: Former assistant coach Price returns to Statesboro as the man in charge, hoping to combine four junior-college transfers with three returning starters. Five of the team's top six scorers return, and Jones has three years of experience in the post. Jones led the league in offensive rebounds last year. As freshmen, Latham showed excellent defensive skills and Humphries showed he could play the point. The four JC additions should provide immediate help. Melding the team early will be Price's toughest challenge if he wants the Eagles to finish with a better record than last year.

Last league title: 1992 (TAAC).

Last NCAA appearance: 1992.

Site: Statesboro, Ga. **Home court:** Hanner Fieldhouse (4,327).

6 THE CITADEL
National Rank: 259

Coach: Pat Dennis (79-110, 7 years).

1998-99 record: 9-18. Southern/Southern: 3-13/6th.

Starters lost: Jerald Freeman, G (8.0 ppg, 1.3 spg, 30.1 mpg).

Others lost: Jonathan Kunz, F; Bryan Patton, G (18.2 mpg); Ryan Sears, F/C (8.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 24.6 mpg).

Starters returning: Alan Puckett, F, 6-4/So. (9.0 ppg, 52.9 FG%, 48.7 3-pt.%, 25.0 mpg); Mike Roy, G, 5-10/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 1.6 spg, 27.3 mpg); Rod Shiver, F, 6-6/So. (8.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.1 bpg, 25.0 mpg); Cliff Washburn, C, 6-6/So. (6.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 24.6 mpg).

Other returnees: Travis Cantrell, G, 6-3/So. (6.6 ppg, 83.8 FT%, 15.4 mpg); Trevor Crafton, G, 6-2/So. (36.4 3-pt.%, 9.7 mpg); Wendell Heyward, F, 6-4/So.; William Hines, G, 6-0/So.

Top newcomers: Gregg Jones, C, 6-9/Fr.; Michael Joseph, F, 6-5/Fr.; Romas Krywonis, F, 6-7/Fr.; Kenny Milford, G, 6-0/Fr.; Ben Tobias, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ben Walters, C, 6-9/Fr.; Clyde Wormley, F, 6-5/Fr.

Outlook: The Bulldogs have no seniors, one junior and even less hope of escaping the cellar of the league standings. No one on the team averaged more than 9.0 ppg last year, and this year's squad has three players taller than 6-6, all freshmen. The Citadel's roster has seven freshmen, seven sophomores and one junior. Who declared early for the draft? A few players must contribute if The Citadel wants to improve on last year's 9-18 season. Shiver emerged as a high-quality defender, blocking 31 shots as a freshman. Puckett made nearly half of his 3-point shots as a freshman, finishing fifth nationally with one of the best marks in league history. The Citadel won three league games last season with a lineup filled with freshmen. Dennis figures the team should improve for his eighth season at the military school.

Last league title: None.

Last NCAA appearance: None.

Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** McAlister Field House (6,000).

Sun Belt

RANK 21

1 LOUISIANA TECH
National Rank: 71

Coach: Keith Richard (19-9, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 19-9. Sun Belt: 10-4/1st.
Starters lost: Lonnie Cooper, G (13.7 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 92.1 FT%; 38.5 3-pt%; 5.4 apg; 1.5 spg; 33.9 mpg).
Others lost: Ira Miller, G (transfer).
Starters returning: Craig Jackson, G, 6-1/Sr. (15.6 ppg; 75.0 FT%; 1.9 spg; 32.9 mpg); Derek Smith, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.1 ppg; 55.0 FG%; 28.2 mpg); Kendrick Spruel, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.0 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 1.4 spg; 1.1 bpg; 29.3 mpg); Curtis Williams, F, 6-9/Sr. (9.1 ppg; 6.0 rpg; 63.6 FG%; 26.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Omar Cooper, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.9 ppg; 5.7 rpg; 66.1 FG%; 25.2 mpg); Jon Fowler, C, 6-10/Jr. (9.1 mpg); Gerrod Henderson, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.4 ppg; 1.4 spg; 25.3 mpg); Mike Pawelzcak, F, 6-8/Sr. (58.6 FG%; 9.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Zach Johnson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Antonio Meeking, F, 6-9/Fr.; Marcus Pastor, F, 6-7/Fr.; Karelius Paul, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS).
Outlook: It will be difficult to replace four-year starter Lonnie Cooper, but Tech returns four starters and is the favorite to represent the league in the NCAA Tournament. Jackson led the team in scoring last year, including a 17.5 average in conference play. Only 6-2, Smith managed 55 percent field-goal shooting. Omar Cooper, a good leaper and steady hand off the bench, was a starter two seasons ago. Though the Bulldogs were 9-0 at home last season, they played only one non-conference home game. A dominant rebounder and defensive stopper will be high-priority items. Richard had a fine rookie season as coach. A high-caliber recruiting class, led by Meeking, should help continue the climb.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Ruston, La. **Home court:** Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

2 ARKANSAS STATE
National Rank: 82

Coach: Dickey Nutt (62-51, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 18-12. Sun Belt: 9-5/2nd.
Starters lost: Eric Beatty, F (11.6 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 56.0 FG%; 1.2 spg; 22.6 mpg); Antonio Harvey, G (14.2 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 75.2 FT%; 1.9 spg; 36.8 mpg); Freddy Hicks (6.9 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 77.3 FT%; 1.4 spg; 2.1 bpg; 26.1 mpg); Jeff Holloway, G (5.7 ppg; 38.5 3-pt%; 20,6 mpg).
Others lost: Jermaine Ezell, G/F; Cody Mears, G (transfer).
Starters returning: Chico Fletcher, G, 5-6/Sr. (17.0 ppg; 8.3 apg; 2.2 spg; 36.8 mpg).
Other returnees: DeShawn Denson, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.2 ppg; 20.9 mpg); C.J. Pepper, F, 6-4/Sr. (11.7 ppg; 5.9 rpg; 49.8 FG%; 24.8 mpg); Luis Rivas, F, 6-7/So. (5.1 ppg; 54.2 FG%; 14.2 mpg); Geoff Williams, C, 6-9/Sr. (50.0 FG%; 12.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jon Beck, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brian Breininger, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS); Antonio Brown, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); DeWayne Hart, G/F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Jamie Rosser, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Josh Sokoloweicz, F, 6-9/Fr.; Kolin Weaver, F, 6-9/So. (transfer/Siena); Odie Williams, G, 6-2/Fr.
Outlook: Fletcher, who led the Indians in scoring and was second in the nation with 8.3 assists a game, is one of the most obscure stars in the country. Rosser, one of the top JC point guards in the nation, should help relieve some ballhandling duties from Fletcher. After playing with a torn tendon in his foot last season, former JC standout Pepper should approach top form. The Indians must become more physical rebounders and find a replacement for Harvey, a 3-point bomber and strong perimeter defender. Nutt and his staff are gaining ground in the recruiting wars and finally providing a consistent winner for the perennially supportive fans. A tougher non-conference schedule includes a rematch of last year's first-round NCAA Tournament game against Utah in the Chase NIT.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Jonesboro, Ark. **Home court:** Convocation Center (10,563).

3 SW LOUISIANA
National Rank: 93

Coach: Jessie Evans (31-29, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 13-16. Sun Belt: 7-7/T3rd.
Starters lost: Reginald Poole, F (14.7 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.1 spg, 31.9 mpg); Chris Funderburk, G (18.8 mpg).
Others lost: Joseph Lee, G.
Starters returning: Blane Harmon, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 1.0 spg, 34.2 mpg); Billy Jones, G, 6-5/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 1.0 spg, 26.8 mpg); Brett Smith, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 19.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Orlando Butler, G, 6-2/So. (4.0 ppg, 11.8 mpg); Jarret Evans, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.1 ppg, 12.8 mpg); David Patrick, G, 5-10/Sr. (1.1 spg, 18.7 mpg); Kendall Regis, C, 6-9/Sr.; Darryl Robins, F, 6-6/So. (46.2 FG%); Shea Whiting, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 19.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Reggie DeGray, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Wofford); Anthony Johnson, F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Robert Jupiter, G, 6-4/So.; Kenneth Lawrence, G, 6-0/Fr.; Demetrius Williams, F/C, 6-9/Fr.
Outlook: Nine of the team's top 10 scorers return, which will be conducive to Evans' style of playing everybody. USL was the best rebounding team in the Sun Belt a year ago with a 4.2 rebounding margin. Finally eligible, Johnson, a former schoolboy star in Chicago, should have an immediate impact on rebounding and interior scoring. The Cajuns' top two returning scorers—Harmon and Jones—each shot less than 39 percent from the field, and team shooting was an uninspiring 40.4 percent. Even drearier was its 59.6 percent free-throw shooting and league-worst 28.1 3-point percentage. If everything comes together, though, there's enough talent and coaching for USL to challenge for the conference title.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lafayette, La. **Home court:** Cajundome (12,800).

4 WESTERN KENTUCKY
National Rank: 121

Coach: Dennis Felton (13-16, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 13-16. Sun Belt: 7-7/T3rd.
Starters lost: Ravon Farris, C (9.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 77.9 FT%, 29.6 mpg); Joe Harney, G, (10.2 ppg, 1.4 spg, 81.5 FT%, 26.5 mpg).
Others lost: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, F, (6.7 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 55.8 FG%, 18.9); Kyle Chapman, G (11.6 mpg); Vince Edwards, G.
Starters returning: Rashon Brown, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 1.6 spg, 49.7 FG%, 30.0 mpg); Nashon McPherson, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 23.0 mpg); Lee Lampley, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 22.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Derek Robinson, G, 6-1/So. (6.6 ppg, 18.9 mpg); Tremain Rowles, G, 6-4/So. (15.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brian Allenspach, F/C, 6-11/So. (transfer/Davidson); David Boyden, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jimmy Boykin, F, 6-6/Fr.; Raynaro Curry, G, 6-0/Fr.; Chris Marcus, C, 7-1/So. (RS); Todor Pandov, F, 6-9/Fr.; Filip Videnov, G, 6-4/Fr.; Nate Williams, F, 6-8/Fr.
Outlook: After a mediocre league run a year ago, Felton coaxed the club to the conference tournament finals. The returning backcourt tandem of McPherson and Brown should be one of the league's best. The Hilltoppers shot better than 70 percent from the free-throw line for the second consecutive year. Freshman guard Videnov gives the team an excellent shooter. The Hilltoppers are talented but inexperienced, with only one senior. They must find a floor leader and improve upon one of the conference's worst assist-to-turnover ratios to be among the Sun Belt's top teams.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Bowling Green, Ky. **Home court:** Diddle Arena (11,300).

By Thomas Murphy
Mobile (Ala.) Register

Predictions

1. Louisiana Tech
2. Arkansas State
3. SW Louisiana
4. Western Kentucky
5. New Orleans
6. Florida International
7. South Alabama
8. Arkansas-Little Rock
9. Denver

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Chico Fletcher, Arkansas State	5-6	170	Sr.
G	Craig Jackson, Louisiana Tech	6-1	195	Sr.
F	Clyde Ellis, New Orleans	6-7	230	Jr.
F	Lonnie Thomas, SW Louisiana	6-8	225	Jr.
F	Kendrick Spruel, Louisiana Tech	6-9	200	Sr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Alan Barksdale, Ark.-Little Rock	6-4	205	Sr.
G	Arthur Ireland, Denver	6-3	195	Jr.
F	Curtis Wilson, New Orleans	6-8	230	Sr.
F	Anthony Johnson, SW Louisiana	6-5	190	Fr.
C/F	Darius Cook, Florida International	6-9	242	Sr.

Player of the Year

Chico Fletcher, G, Arkansas State

Newcomer of the Year

Clyde Ellis, F, New Orleans

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Alan Barksdale, Arkansas-Little Rock
Best rebounder: Darius Cook, Florida International
Best playmaker: Chico Fletcher, Arkansas State
Best defender: Curtis Wilson, New Orleans
Best leaper: Gerrod Henderson, Louisiana Tech
Most versatile: Kendrick Spruel, Louisiana Tech
Most flamboyant: Carlos Arroya, Florida International.
Best NBA prospect: Chico Fletcher, Arkansas State.

5 NEW ORLEANS
National Rank: 138

Coach: Joey Stiebing (29-28, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 14-16. Sun Belt. 5-9/T7th.
Starters lost: Markell Sneed, C (1.4 spg; 26.5 mpg).
Others lost: Frank Clardy, G (45.3 FG%, 12.3 mpg); Kelvin Pickings, F/C); Rhett Reed, F (50.0 FG%; quit team); Byron Wilson, F/C (6.1 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 1.2 bpg; 20.9 mpg).
Starters returning: Desmond Baxter, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.4 ppg; 75.6 FT%; 30.6 mpg); Carlos Hines, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.5 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 44.0 3-pt%; 1.4 spg; 27.0 mpg); Tory Walker, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.7 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 1.3 spg; 1.5 bpg; 29.5 mpg); Curtis Wilson, C, 6-8/Sr. (11.2 ppg; 5.7 rpg; 58.7 FG%; 1.4 spg; 31.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Andre Blackmon, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.6 ppg; 40.2 3-pt%; 78.6 FT%; 13.3 mpg); Tim Brinker, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.5 mpg); Brett Meliet, G, 6-0/So.; Kyle Smith, G, 6-2/So. (48.7 FG%; 76.5 FT%; 12.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ben Adams, G, 6-1/Jr (JC); Nathaniel Bailey, G, 5-7/Jr. (JC); Clyde Ellis, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Rickie Marlowe, G/F, Jr. (JC); David Morin, C, 6-11/So. (JC); Corey Sanders, C, 6-11/So. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton).
Outlook: The Privateers could boast one of the Sun Belt's most formidable front lines with Wilson, Walker and Hines. But to do so, the team must improve its league-worst rebounding average. JC star Ellis adds to the frontcourt and leads a strong recruiting class. Expect the team to continue its tradition of strong defense, after leading the league in scoring defense (63.9 ppg) and field-goal defense (.427). Backcourt play is shaky behind Baxter, and depth is a concern. Stiebing has a strong returning nucleus for the first time in his three seasons, so chances are the team will return to its winning ways.
Last league title: 1997 (tie).

Sun Belt Schedules

Denver
N26 Yale
N30 SW Louisiana
D4 BYU
D6 at Navy
D8 at Brown
D11 at Oregon State
D14 at Oregon
D18 Colorado State
D22 Wyoming
D29 Louisiana Tech
J4 Colorado
J6 at SW Louisiana
J8 at Louisiana Tech
J10 at Air Force
J13 at New Orleans
J15 at South Alabama
J17 Arkansas State
J22 Florida International
J24 at W. Kentucky
J31 Ark.-Little Rock
F5 at Fla. International
F7 at Arkansas State
F10 Air Force
F17 New Orleans
F19 South Alabama
F21 at Ark.-Little Rock
F28 Western Kentucky

Louisiana Tech
N20 at North Texas
N23 at Texas-El Paso
N27 at St. Louis
D4 at Louisville
D8 Nicholls State
D11 McNeese State
D16 at Jackson State
D18 Centenary
D21 at Stephen F. Austin
D23 at TCU
D29 at Denver
J8 Denver
J11 at Centenary
J15 at SW Louisiana
J20 Ark.-Little Rock
J22 Arkansas State
J27 at W. Kentucky
J29 at Fla. International
F3 New Orleans
F5 South Alabama
F10 at Arkansas State
F12 at Ark.-Little Rock
F17 Fla. International
F19 Western Kentucky
F21 SW Louisiana
F24 at New Orleans
F26 at South Alabama

New Orleans
N16 Xavier (La.)
N20 at SW Missouri St.
N24 Northern Illinois
N27 Norfolk State
N30 at So. Mississippi
D4 at Kansas State
D11 at Old Dominion
D18 at Nicholls State
D20 Sam Houston State
D29 Pittsburgh
J3 McNeese State
J6 Arkansas State
J8 Ark.-Little Rock
J10 at Fla. International
J13 Denver
J18 South Alabama
J24 at Tulane
J27 at Arkansas State
J29 at Ark.-Little Rock
J31 Western Kentucky
F3 at Louisiana Tech
F5 at SW Louisiana
F10 Fla. International
F12 at South Alabama
F17 at Denver
F21 at W. Kentucky
F24 Louisiana Tech
F26 SW Louisiana

Fla. International
N19-20 Florida Int. Tip-Off Tour.
N25-28 Hawaii Pacific Classic
D14 St. Francis
D16 Illinois-Chicago
D18 at St. Bonaventure
D23 BYU
D30 Akron
J2 Texas-El Paso
J8 Western Kentucky
J10 New Orleans
J13 at Arkansas State
J15 at Ark.-Little Rock
J22 at Denver
J24 at Texas-Pan Amer.
J27 SW Louisiana
J29 Louisiana Tech
J31 at South Alabama
F5 Denver
F7 Texas-Pan Amer.
F10 at New Orleans
F12 at W. Kentucky
F15 South Alabama
F17 at Louisiana Tech
F19 at SW Louisiana
F24 Ark.-Little Rock
F26 Arkansas State

Ark.-Little Rock
N23 Oklahoma State
N27 at Bowling Green
N30 Alcorn State
D4 at Missouri-KC
D8 Centenary
D11 at Oklahoma
D15 Grambling
D18 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D21 at Georgia
D30 Bowling Green
J5 at South Alabama
J8 at New Orleans
J13 Western Kentucky
J15 Fla. International
J20 at Louisiana Tech
J22 at SW Louisiana
J27 South Alabama
J29 New Orleans
F5 Arkansas State
F10 SW Louisiana
F12 Louisiana Tech
F15 at Centenary
F19 at Arkansas State
F21 Denver
F24 at Fla. International
F26 at W. Kentucky

South Alabama
N19 at Bradley
N23 Alabama State
N30 at Wright State
D4 Southern Miss.
D7 UAB
D11 at Stephen F. Austin
D16-17 Coors Classic
D21 BYU
D28 Alabama A&M
D30 at Florida
J5 Ark.-Little Rock
J8 Arkansas State
J11 Norfolk State
J15 Denver
J18 at New Orleans
J22 at W. Kentucky
J27 at Ark.-Little Rock
J29 at Arkansas State
J31 Fla. International
F3 at SW Louisiana
F5 at Louisiana Tech
F9 Western Kentucky
F12 New Orleans
F15 at Fla. International
F19 at Denver
F23 SW Louisiana
F26 Louisiana Tech

Southwestern Louisiana
N19 Univ. of La.-Monroe
N20 at Texas
N27 East Carolina
N30 at Denver
D4 at Texas Tech
D6 at North Texas
D11 Southern Miss.
D14 Lamar
D16 McNeese State
D20-22 San Juan Shootout
D29 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J2 Siena
J6 Denver
J10 at Texas Pan-Amer.
J15 Louisiana Tech
J17 Texas Pan-American
J20 Arkansas State
J22 Ark.-Little Rock
J27 Florida International
J29 at W. Kentucky
F3 South Alabama
F5 New Orleans
F10 at Ark.-Little Rock
F12 at Arkansas State
F17 Western Kentucky
F19 Florida International
F21 at Louisiana Tech
F24 at South Alabama
F26 at New Orleans

Arkansas State
N16 at Utah
N22 Austin Peay State
N29 Jackson State
D4 TCU
D6 at Jackson State
D16 Memphis
D18 at SE Missouri St.
D23 at Eastern Illinois
D29 at Valparaiso
D30 at Oklahoma
J2 at Iowa State
J6 at New Orleans
J8 at South Alabama
J13 Fla. International
J15 Western Kentucky
J17 at Denver
J20 at SW Louisiana
J22 at Louisiana Tech
J27 New Orleans
J29 South Alabama
F5 at Ark.-Little Rock
F7 Denver
F10 Louisiana Tech
F12 SW Louisiana
F19 Ark.-Little Rock
F24 at W. Kentucky
F26 at Fla. International

Western Kentucky
N20 at Southern Ill.
N23 Evansville
N27 at St. Joseph's (Pa.)
N30 at Akron
D4 at Mississippi State
D7 Murray State
D11 Virginia Commonwealth
D18 at Vanderbilt
D29-30 Oneida Bingo and Casino Classic
D31 at New Orleans
J8 at Fla. International
J13 at Ark.-Little Rock
J15 at Arkansas State
J18 at Belmont
J22 South Alabama
J24 Denver
J27 Louisiana Tech
J20 SW Louisiana
J31 at New Orleans
F9 at South Alabama
F12 Florida International
F17 at SW Louisiana
F19 at Louisiana Tech
F21 New Orleans
F24 Arkansas State
F26 Ark.-Little Rock
F28 at Denver

Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: New Orleans. **Home court:** Lakefront Arena (10,000).

6 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
National Rank: 146

Coach: Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez (63-52, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 13-16 Sun Belt: 7-7/T3rd.
Starters lost: Raja Bell, F (16.7 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 45.6 FG%; 1.3 spg; 34.9 mpg); Gene Derkack, F (8.2 ppg; 4.6 rpg; 50.3 FG%; 1.3 spg; 25.6 mpg); Damien McKnight, G (9.0 ppg; 40.3 3-pt%; 26.2 mpg).
Others lost: Ramon Aybar, F (49.0 FG%; 12.0 mpg; left school); Marcus Carreno, G (5.6 ppg; 1.1 spg; 25.9 mpg); Anthony Harris, C (47.4 FG%; 12.6 mpg).
Starters returning: Carlos Arroyo, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.5 ppg; 37.5 3-pt%; 4.7 apg; 1.2 spg; 29.8 mpg); Darius Cook, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (10.7 ppg; 6.6 rpg; 49.8 FG%; 29.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Karel Rosario, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (5.0 ppg; 46.7 FG%; 1.1 spg; 18.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Nate Aaron, G, 6-3/Fr.; Lucas Barnes, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Miami, Fla.); Jabahri Brown, F/C, 6-10/Fr.; Marshod Fairweather, G, 6-0/Sr. (RS/academics); Fab Fisher, G, 5-9/Fr.; Ben Schifferer, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Michael Tucker, F, 6-6/Fr.; Richard Weston, F, 6-9/So. (transfer/Monmouth).
Outlook: Point guard Arroyo sparked the club when he returned from a foot injury last season. He should be a good creator and scorer this year. Cook should be even better after ranking fifth in the Sun Belt in rebounding and scoring. Barnes, who isn't eligible until December 11, should provide much-needed height and athleticism, and he could create matchup problems on the perimeter. Barnes is the team's best hope to replace the scoring void left by Bell. Rodriguez must find a way to effectively work eight newcomers into his program. There are five freshmen and only two seniors, so leadership will be at a premium.
Last league title: 1995 (TAAC East).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Miami. **Home court:** Golden Panther Arena (5,000).

7 SOUTH ALABAMA
National Rank: 210

Coach: Bob Weltlich (32-23, 2 years; 251-293 overall, 19 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 11-16. Sun Belt. 6-8/6th.
Starters lost: Darrian Evans, F (20.3 ppg; 7.7 rpg; 47.7 FG%; 2.0 spg; 36.5 mpg); Garrett Theriot, G (54.1 FG%; 1.0 spg; 22.7 mpg).
Others lost: Clayton Dye, F (18.8 mpg); Jerrick Kellum, F/C (5.4 ppg; 4.1 rpg; 45.3 FG%; 76.9 FT%; 16.3 mpg; academics); Alvin Payton, G (13.1 mpg; transfer).
Starters returning: Dusty Dubbs, F/G, 6-4/Sr. (10.8 ppg; 4.4 rpg; 33.9 mpg); Virgil Stanescu, C, 6-10/Jr. (9.7 ppg; 6.0 rpg; 59.3 FG%; 26.3 mpg); Michael Stewart, F, 6-5/Sr. (52.2 FG%; 13.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Josh Hotz, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.6 ppg; 40.2 3-pt%; 22.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ericson Beck, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Michael Bollman, C, 6-7/Fr.; Ravonte Dantzler, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Brett Gravitt, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Irv Jenkins, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Akbar Stepford, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Demetrice Williams, G, 6-1/Fr.; Henry Williams, F, 6-7 Fr.; Reggie York, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Dubbs is a heady player who should take up a good portion of the scoring load with Evans' departure. Hotz proved to be a strong 3-point shooter before an injury ended his season, and Dantzler is expected to contribute immediately. Experience, however, will be a problem for the Jaguars—only Dubbs has been in the program for more than one season, and six of the nine newcomers are transfers. The tough physical presence and clutch scoring ability of Evans will be hard to replace. But Weltlich has promised a more up-tempo attack, which should inflate the team's low scoring average. Weltlich likes his recruiting class, but it will take some wizardry to turn this roster into an instant contender.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Mobile, Ala. **Home court:** Mitchell Center (10,000).

8 ARK.-LITTLE ROCK
National Rank: 262

Coach: Sidney Moncrief (first year).
1998-99 record: 12-15. Sun Belt: 5-9/8th.
Starters lost: Maurice Bowie, F (13.3 ppg; 6.7 rpg; 54.9 FG%; 32.9 mpg); Chris Green, G (14.3 ppg; 45.3 FG%; 82.4 FT%; 4.6 apg; 1.2 spg; 34.5 mpg); Ryan Moss, F (13.5 ppg 6.5 rpg; 64.3 FG%; 1.9 bpg; 33.5 mpg); Steve Rector, G (8.6 ppg; 4.0 rpg; 37.2 3-pt%; 34.9 mpg).
Others lost: Maurice Jones, G (9.9 mpg).
Starters returning: Alan Barksdale, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.0 ppg; 41.0 3-pt%; 80.0 FT%; 1.0 spg; 35.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Adrian Brown, G, 6-1/So.; Michael Lovitt, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.2 mpg); Michael Neal, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Stan Blackmon, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Roman Brown, F, 6-8/Fr.; Alex Finger, G, 6-0/Fr.; Mark Green, G, 6-2/Fr.; Roderick Nealy, F, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: Moncrief, who takes over as the Trojans' coach, won't have much to work with. Barksdale is the team's lone returning starter and the only player back who averaged more than 3.1 points. But Barksdale is an excellent 3-point and free-throw shooter and set the school record with 95 3-pointers last season. He makes opponents honor the perimeter, but Moncrief must find high-quality lane dwellers from the crop of newcomers to keep the offense balanced. The Trojans lost almost 80 percent of their rebounding from last season off a team that was outboarded by 1.6 per game.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Little Rock, Ark. **Home court:** Altel Arena (18,000).

9 DENVER
National Rank: 305

Coach: Marty Fletcher (17-37, 2 years; 230-258 overall, 17 years).
1998-99 record: 10-17.
Starters lost: Eric Dow, C (14.9 ppg, 10.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 2.4 bpg, 50.3 FG%, 35.9 mpg); Russell Martin, G (12.9 ppg, 75.0 FT%, 33.1 mpg).
Others lost: Norman Daniels, G (9.3 mpg); Michael Nachreiner, C.
Starters returning: Wahhab Carter, F, 6-6/So. (12.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 29.6 mpg); Tyrone Church, G, 5-10/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 5.1 apg, 84.9 FT%, 29.6 mpg); Arthur Ireland, G, 6-3/Jr. (17.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 77.5 FT%, 35.2 3-pt%, 32.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Phillip Heath, G, 5-11/So.; Matt Paul, G, 6-3/Jr. (35.9 3-pt%, 10.3 mpg); Tyrone Turner, G, 5-10/So. (35.3 3-pt%); Brandt Wilcox, C, 6-8/Sr. (56.1 FG%, 11.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kevin Overton, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Seminole State JC); B.J. Pratt, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jamaal Ramey, F, 6-9/Fr.; Steve Simmons, C, 6-9/So. (transfer/Treasure Valley JC); Tom Starkey, F, 6-5/So. (transfer/New Mexico).
Outlook: Ireland has blossomed into a solid scorer and rebounder, and Carter had a good freshman season and should only get better. The Pioneers are the youngest team in the league, so Fletcher's troops probably will require some seasoning before they are ready to contend. The Pioneers need to improve their field-goal percentage and rebounding if they hope to be competitive. In a limited schedule against Sun Belt teams last season, Denver, which was an independent a year ago, was 1-5 against Sun Belt teams last year.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Denver. **Home court:** Magness Arena (7,200).

West Coast

RANK 14

1 GONZAGA
National Rank: 20

Coach: Mark Few (first year).
1998-99 record: 28-7. WCC: 12-2/1st. Lost to Duke in NCAA West regional final.
Starters lost: Quentin Hall, G (11.5 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 3.3 apg); Jeremy Eaton, C (11.7 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 53.0 FG%).
Others lost: Mike Leasure, F (2.8 ppg; 1.8 rpg).
Starters returning: Richie Frahm, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (14.4 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 42.9 3-pt. FG%); Casey Calvary, F, 6-9/Jr. (9.4 ppg; 6.9 rpg; 65.8 FG%); Matt Santangelo, G, 6-1/Sr. (12.7 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 5.3 apg).
Other returnees: Axel Dench, C, 6-11/Sr. (6.8 ppg; 3.5 rpg); Ryan Floyd, G, 6-1/Jr. (4.1 ppg; 41.0 3-pt. FG%); Zach Gourde, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Mike Nilson, G, 6-5/Sr. (2.8 ppg; 2.6 rpg); Mark Spink, F, 6-9/Jr. (2.5 ppg; 2.0 rpg).
Top newcomers: Germayne Forbes, G. 6-1/Fr.; Jay Sherrell, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jimmy Tricco, G, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: The 'Zags have several players returning who made contributions to last season's NCAA Tournament run, which was stopped in the Elite Eight by eventual champion UConn. They should come back with not only fond memories, but also confidence and enough enthusiasm to show last year wasn't a fluke. Santangelo, fresh from a summer spent in the World University Games, is the conference's best player under 7 feet. He combines with deadly shooter Frahm for a backcourt that is the best in the conference and, as proved in the tournament, competitive with any in the country. Calvary's 65.8 percent on field-goal attempts last season was the third-best in league history, and he is poised on the edge of the WCC's top 10 for career blocked shots. Exceptional depth and team chemistry were key elements in last year's success. Dench and Spink go from the bench to starting, and this season's reserves have a tough act to follow. Chemistry doesn't happen automatically, everybody will be gunning for the 'Zags and the loss of coach Dan Monson to Minnesota in late July was a blow. But Gonzaga promoted assistant Few, who has eight years experience at the school and a talented, experienced group with which to work.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Spokane, Wash. **Home court:** Martin Centre (4,000).

2 SAINT MARY'S
National Rank: 77

Coach: Doug Bollwinkel (25-33, 2 years; 81-113 overall, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 13-18. WCC: 5-9/6th.
Starters lost: Eric Schraeder, F (19.8 ppg; 6.1 rpg; 43.6 3-pt. FG%); Eric Knapp, F (5.6 ppg; 4.1 rpg).
Others lost: O'Neil Kamaka, F (3.8 ppg; 2.2 rpg); Frank Knight, G (10.2 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 23.0 mpg).
Starters returning: Frank Allocco, G, 5-10/Sr (12.1 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 4.9 apg; 40.3 3-pt. FG%).; Seth Dahle, F, 6-6/Sr. (3.6 ppg; 4.6 rpg); Josh Greer, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.0 ppg; 4.8 rpg).
Other returnees: Jon Gordon, G, 6-2/Sr.; Frankie King, G, 6-1/Jr. (1.7 ppg; 1.4 rpg); Anthony Jones, G, 6-0/Soph.; Jesse Bond, F, 6-9/Sr.; Dan Pangrazio, G, 6-3/Soph.; Blake Jensen, C, 6-11/Soph.; Brad Millard, C, 7-3/Sr. (RS/broken foot); Andre Bobbitt, F, 6-8/Fr.(RS/finger).
Top newcomers: Ross Benson, F, 6-10/Fr.; Jovan Harris, G, 6-3/Fr.; Tyler Herr, G, 6-5/Fr.; Chris Walls, C, 7-0/Fr.; K.T. Turner, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The working title for the story of the Gaels' season is "His Left Foot." If the left foot of Millard holds up—it hasn't in the last two seasons—Saint Mary's will be a contender. If "Big Continent" breaks down again, the Gaels are relegated to mid-pack. Millard's foot passed preliminary summer tests, but patience and caution are the bywords and he won't be going full speed until partway into the season. With Millard around, Allocco, already one of the top guards in the league, becomes even more effective. And forwards Greer and Dahle also get better by association. The graduation of Schraeder, the WCC scoring champion and Player of the Year, and four other 1999 seniors leaves holes. But Bollwinkel is enthusiastic about a recruiting class that features Turner, a guard out of Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College with size, speed and scoring ability, and promising freshmen Benson, Harris, Walls and Herr.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Moraga, Calif. **Home court:** McKeon Pavilion (3,500).

3 SANTA CLARA
National Rank: 105

Coach: Dick Davey (121-78, 7 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-15. WCC: 8-6/4th.
Starters lost: Alex Lopez, C (10.7 ppg; 4.7 rpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: Nathan Fast, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.7 ppg; 5.0 rpg); Delano D'Oyen, G, 5-10/Jr. (9.5 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 3.3 apg; 42.6 3-pt FG%); Darrell Teat, F, 6-3/Sr. (11.8 ppg; 5.1 rpg); Todd Wuschnig, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.3 ppg; 5.6 rpg).
Other returnees: Stephen Dely, F/C, 6-11/Jr. (1.6 ppg); David Emslie, F/C, 6-11/Soph. (1.7 ppg; 1.0 rpg); Chris Gomes, F, 6-8/Sr. (1.8 ppg; 3.1 rpg); Justin Holbrook, F, 6-7/Soph. (1.8 ppg); Brian Vaka, G, 6-2/Soph. (5.3 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 18.0 mpg); Brian Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS/knee); Jamie Holmes, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: None.
Outlook: On June 28, 1998, star point guard Jones dislocated his kneecap and suffered a fragmented fracture in his right knee in a summer league game, sidelining him for the season and draining much of the promise from the Broncos' 1998-99 season. Jones is back, and if he is anywhere near the player he was as a sophomore, Santa Clara could return to its accustomed place as a league power. In the absence of Jones, an all-around shooter, ballhandler and playmaker, others got precious playing time and experience. Fast, Teat and D'Oyen averaged in or near double figures last year and give the Broncos devastating perimeter shooting. Teat also can draw fouls. He led the conference in free throws made, with 126. Wuschnig and Holmes, the latter returning from injury, are capable forwards but haven't established themselves as scoring threats. Lopez, provider of the inside offense last year, is gone, and that figures as a problem area for Davey to address.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Santa Clara, Calif. **Home court:** Toso Pavilion (5,000).

4 SAN FRANCISCO
National Rank: 118

Coach: Phillip Matthews (63-53, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-18. WCC: 4-10/7th.
Starters lost: Gerald Zimmerman, G, (18.3 ppg; 5.3 rpg).
Others lost: Terrence Moore, F/C (6.9 ppg; 5.6 rpg).
Starters returning: Russell Hinder, F, 6-10/Soph. (6.7 ppg; 5.7 rpg); James Lee, F, 6-6/Jr. (10.0 ppg; 6.0 rpg); LyRyan Russell, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.2 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 4.5 apg); Ali Thomas, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.9 ppg; 3.4 rpg; 2.9 apg).
Other returnees: Hondre Brewer, C, 7-0/Soph. (2.0 ppg; 2.4 rpg); Eugene Brown, F, 6-9/Soph. (1.1 ppg); Glen Summerall, G, 6-4/Soph. (3.1 ppg; 1.7 rpg).
Top newcomers: John Cox, G, 6-4/Fr.; Shomari Sarpy, F, 6-9/Fr.; Shammell Stallworth, G, 6-5/Fr.; Darryl Tucker, F, 6-9/Fr.; Kenyon Jones, C, 6-10/Sr. (transfer/California); Chris Barideaux, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Dons had it going good, off to a 7-1 start with the loss to UCLA and a win over then-No. 12 Xavier. But point guard Russell injured an ankle and his replacement quit, just in time for a killer stretch of games during which the team logged 22,000 air miles and six straight losses. A healthy Russell for the duration would boost USF greatly this season. Backcourt mate Thomas can improve on his numbers, which were below expectations, and help overcome the loss of Zimmerman, the top scorer in league play. USF won't lack for quickness on the perimeter, but its shooting remains suspect until proven otherwise. Lee has shown promise as a scorer and rebounder and could prove the key on a front line that is big and young. With his size and experience, Jones, a transfer from Cal, could be an impact player.
Last league title: 1981.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: San Francisco. **Home court:** War Memorial Gym (5,300).

By Hank Wesch
San Diego Union-Tribune

Predictions

1. Gonzaga	5. Pepperdine
2. Saint Mary's	6. San Diego
3. Santa Clara	7. Portland
4. San Francisco	8. Loyola Marymount

Preseason

First Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Richie Frahm, Gonzaga	6-5	203	Sr.
G	Matt Santangelo, Gonzaga	6-1	173	Sr.
F	Casey Calvary, Gonzaga	6-8	215	Jr.
C	Brad Millard, Saint Mary's	7-3	345	Sr.
F	Kelvin Gibbs, Pepperdine	6-6	245	Jr.

Second Team

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Frank Allocco, Saint Mary's	5-10	160	Sr.
G	Brian Jones, Santa Clara	6-3	195	Jr.
C	Kenyon Jones, San Francisco	6-10	270	Jr.
F	Nathan Fast, Santa Clara	6-4	187	Sr.
F	Elton Mashack, Loyola Marymount	6-5	210	Jr.

Player of the Year

Matt Santangelo, G, Gonzaga

Newcomer of the Year

Kenyon Jones, C, San Francisco

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Richie Frahm, Gonzaga
Best rebounder: Casey Calvary, Gonzaga
Best playmaker: Matt Santangelo, Gonzaga
Best defender: Tommie Prince, Pepperdine
Best leaper: Casey Calvary, Gonzaga
Most versatile: Brian Jones, Santa Clara
Most flamboyant: Ryan Jones, Portland
Best NBA prospect: Brad Millard, Saint Mary's

5 PEPPERDINE
National Rank: 161

Coach: Jan van Breda Kolff (1st year; 127-110 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA tournament record).
1998-99 record: 19-13. WCC: 9-5/2nd (tie). Lost to Colorado in NIT first round.
Starters lost: Jelani Gardner, G (13.8 ppg; 3.9 rpg; 4.6 apg).
Others lost: Marc McDowell, F (9.3 ppg; 3.4 rpg); Jeremy Vague, C (transfer); Ross Varner, F (mission).
Starters returning: Tezale Archie, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.0 ppg; 2.8 apg); Kelvin Gibbs, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.0 ppg; 7.3 rpg); Tommie Prince, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (6.3 ppg; 3.2 rpg; 2.1 apg); Nick Sheppard, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.7 ppg; 4.3 rpg).
Other returnees: Robert Fomby, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.4 ppg; 1.5 apg); David Lalazarian, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.7 ppg; 2.8 rpg); Al Minahan, G, 6-3/Jr. (3.3 ppg); Cedric Suitt, C, 6-11/Soph.
Top newcomers: Tyler Brown, C, 6-11/Fr.; Greg Ethington, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brandon Armstrong, G, 6-5/Soph. (Prop 48); Greg Berry, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Derrick Anderson, G, 6-5/Sr. (transfer/Nevada).
Outlook: If van Breda Kolff, a star at Vanderbilt in the mid-'70s and coach there the last six years, can install a pinch of good old SEC toughness into the available talent, things could get interesting in Malibu. Only three years removed from a 6-21 season, Pepperdine won 36 games over the past two seasons under Lorenzo Romar, now gone to Saint Louis. Gibbs is among the league's best, a solid scorer and rebounder. Prince was voted the WCC's top defender last year. Lalazarian and Sheppard didn't live up to advance notices after transferring from Notre Dame and LSU, respectively, but they should improve. The loss of Gardner hurts two ways. Gardner was the most reliable perimeter shooter and the one player who could create his scoring opportunities. There is no obvious candidate to do those things now.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Malibu, Calif. **Home court:** Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104).

6 SAN DIEGO
National Rank: 192

Coach: Brad Holland (74-64, 5 years; 97-95 overall, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 18-9. WCC: 9-5/2nd(tie).
Starters lost: Brock Jacobsen, G (10.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg; 2.8 apg); Jeff Knoll, C (3.1 ppg; 3.3 rpg); Lamont Smith, G (4.6 ppg; 2.2 rpg); Ryan Williams, F (15.7 ppg; 7.5 rpg).
Others lost: Jason Powell, F/C (1.5 ppg; 1.6 rpg).
Starters returning: Dana White, G, 5-11/Jr. (9.7 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 3.9 apg).
Other returnees: Kevin Hanson, F/C, 6-10/Soph. (2.0 ppg; 1.9 rpg); Andre Laws, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.0 ppg; 1.4 rpg); Tom Lippold, F, 6-6/Soph. (6.2 ppg); Cameron Rigby, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.0 ppg; 3.6 rpg); Steve Ross, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (3.9 ppg).
Top newcomers: Michael Blackmon, F/C, 6-7/Soph. (RS); Chris Ferguson, G/6-1/Fr.; Roy Morris, G, 6-2/Fr; Nick Greene, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Kyle Russell, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: Holland is a staunch advocate of senior leadership, and the trio of Williams, Jacobsen and Smith practiced what Holland preached last year. Result: one of the better records in school history. This year, however, Holland has a team without a senior. So a hunt to find someone to provide the intangibles tops his priority list. The good news is that the returning underclassmen are as athletic a bunch as the Toreros have fielded in a few years, and most had ample amounts of experience last season. White and Laws, interchangeable at point guard, could be teamed to form a quick and dangerous backcourt. Rigby, Lippold, Hanson and Ross had moments last year but still have to show they are ready for prime time.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: San Diego. **Home court:** USD Sports Center (2,500).

7 PORTLAND
National Rank: 197

Coach: Rob Chavez (72-68, 5 years; 100-95 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 9-18. WCC: 3-11/8th.
Starters lost: Jimmie Rainwater, F (12.3 ppg; 3.3 rpg).
Others lost: Jason Robbins, F (1.6 ppg).
Starters returning: Travis Andrews, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.1 ppg; 4.3 rpg; 3.9 apg; 46.7 3-pt. FG%); Troy Collins, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.0 ppg; 4.6 rpg); Ryan Jones, G, 6-3/Soph. (10.4 ppg; 2.2 rpg; 2.2 apg); Chuks Neboh, C, 6-11/Sr. (3.4 ppg; 2.5 rpg; 1.1 bpg).
Other returnees: Phillip Dejworek, C, 6-9/Jr. (5.0 ppg; 2.7 rpg); Jason Franklin, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.3 ppg; 2.3 rpg); Brian Jackson, F, 6-5/Sr.(5.6 ppg; 3.4 rpg); Eric Sandrin, F, 6-9/Jr. (3.9 ppg; 2.2 rpg).
Top newcomers: Bryan Mills, G, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Daniel Sandrin, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Tim Frost, C, 6-10/Fr.; Jesse Keely, F, 6-8/Fr.; Hans Rasmussen, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Notre Dame); Josh Tiggs, G, 6-2/Soph. (JC); Kevin Woodberry, G, 6-0/Fr.
Outlook: The Pilots return a league-best 82 percent of last season's scoring punch, with guards Jones and Andrews the group leaders. Andrews became the first Portland player to top the league in 3-point shooting, with a 51.4 percent in WCC play and 46.7 percent overall. Jones and Andrews are a built-in perimeter threat, and there is depth at guard with Franklin. Count on the Pilots to do some ballhawking. They averaged 9.9 steals per game, leading the category for the fourth time in five years, and have No. 1 thief Jones back. Size is returning up front, but the big men must be better than last year, when the Pilots were last in the league in rebounding while allowing opponents the second-highest average per game.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Chiles Center (5,000).

8 LOYOLA MARYMOUNT
National Rank: 260

Coach: Charles Bradley (18-36, 2 years; 55-79 overall, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. WCC: 6-8/5th.
Starters lost: Haywood Eaddy, G (14.8 ppg; 5.3 apg); Tim Kennedy, F (11.6 ppg; 5.4 rpg); Willie Allen, G (14.0 ppg; 3.0 apg); Silvester Kainga, F (5.6 ppg; 5.5 rpg).
Others lost: Leo Saucedo, F (1.8 ppg; 1.4 rpg); Chris Evelyn, G (1.4 ppg).
Starters returning: Elton Mashack, F, 6-5/Jr. (12.1 ppg; 6.9 rpg).
Other returnees: Robert Davis, G, 6-3/Soph. (7.1 ppg; 2.3 rpg); Ed Wolfe, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.3 ppg; 2.5 rpg); Curtis Slaughter, G, 6-7/Soph. (3.8 ppg; 2.8 rpg; 2.6 apg).
Top newcomers: Pablo Machado, C, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Georgia Tech); Stanley Thorne, G, 5-8/Fr.; J.J. Sola, F, 6-7/Fr.; Kevin Richard, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ryan Abrahams, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jean-Paul Afif, F, 6-8/Soph. (JC).
Outlook: The Lions lost virtually all their scoring with the graduation of pint-sized point guard Eaddy, his backcourt mate Allen and front-liners Kennedy and Kainga. Last season, the Lions were second in the league in scoring but last in defense. If ever the term "rebuilding year" applies, it applies here, and the effort begins with Mashack. A classic small forward, Mashack can leap, score and rebound and has a nice left-handed, mid-range jumper. The Lions will be counting on Machado to take over for Kainga at center and complement Mashack. The other three starting spots appear to be open.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Gersten Pavilion (4,156).

West Coast Schedules

Gonzaga
N21 at Montana
N26 Eastern Washington
N29 at Washington St.
D1 Boise State
D4 at Cincinnati
D8 Temple*
D11 at UCLA
D13 at Washington
D19 Montana
D21 California†
D27-30 Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic
J4 at Idaho
J8 Texas Pan-American
J13 San Francisco
J20 at St. Mary's
J22 at San Diego
J26 Portland
J29 at Portland
F3 Pepperdine
F5 Loyola Marymount
F11 at Loyola Marymount
F12 at Pepperdine
F17 San Diego
F19 St. Mary's
F25 at Santa Clara
F26 at San Francisco
*Chicago
†Anaheim, Calif.

Loyola Marymount
N20 California Baptist
N23 at Pacific
N27 at Boise St.
D1 UC Irvine
D4 at Cal State Fullerton
D11 USC
D15 at UTEP
D18 at Long Beach St.
D21 Dartmouth
D30 at San Diego St.
J2 at Notre Dame
J5 Santa Barbara
J8 Occidental College
J14 San Diego St.
J15 St. Mary's
J21 at San Francisco
J22 at Santa Clara
J28 Santa Clara
J29 San Francisco
F3 at Portland
F5 at Gonzaga
F11 Gonzaga
F12 Portland
F16 at Pepperdine
F19 Pepperdine
F24 at St. Mary's
F26 at San Diego St.

Pepperdine
N20 Long Beach St.
N23 at Fresno St.
N27-28 Sparkletts Invitational
D2 at Kansas
D4 at Wichita St.
D7 Cal State Fullerton
D11 Santa Barbara
D20-22 San Juan Shootout
D28 at UCLA
D30 at Pacific
J3 Lehigh
J8 at Northwestern
J14 St. Mary's
J15 San Diego
J21 at Santa Clara
J22 at San Francisco
J28 San Francisco
J29 Santa Clara
F3 at Gonzaga
F5 at Portland
F11 Portland
F12 Gonzaga
F16 Loyola Marymount
F19 at Loyola Marymount
F24 at San Diego
F26 at St. Mary's

Portland
N19 Occidental College
N23 at Portland St.
N27 Rice
N30 at Oregon
D4 San Jose St.
D7 at Washington St.
D11 Idaho St.
D17 at Loyola Chicago
D22 Ohio
D28 Seattle
D30 at Sacramento St.
J3 at Cal State Fullerton
J6 Texas A&M
J13 Santa Clara
J15 San Francisco
J20 at San Diego St.
J22 at St. Mary's
J26 at Gonzaga
J29 Gonzaga
F3 Loyola Marymont
F5 Pepperdine
F11 at Pepperdine
F12 at Loyola Marymount
F17 St. Mary's
F19 San Diego St.
F25 San Francisco St.
F27 at Santa Clara

Saint Mary's
N19 at Colorado
N22 Washington
N30 Cal State Fullerton
D4 at UC Irvine
D11 Sacramento St.
D13 Wright St.
D18 at San Jose St.
D21 at Xavier
D23 at Wright St.
D30 at Montana
J5 Nevada
J8 at Sant Barbara
J14 at Pepperdine
J15 at Loyola Marymount
J20 Gonzaga
J22 Portland
J26 at San Diego St.
J29 San Diego St.
F4 at San Francisco
F5 at Santa Clara
F10 Santa Clara
F17 at Portland
F19 at Gonzaga
F24 Loyola Marymount
F26 Pepperdine

San Diego
N19 at UC Irvine
N23 at Cal State Fullerton
N26-27 at Oklahoma Tournament
D4 San Diego St.
D11 at Texas
D18 Dartmouth
D21 Eastern Washington
D29-30 Utah State Tournament
J5 Lehigh
J8 Cal State Fullerton
J13 at Loyola Marymount
J15 at Pepperdine
J20 Portland
J22 Gonzaga
J26 St. Mary's
J29 at St. Mary's
F4 at Santa Clara
F5 at San Francisco
F10 San Francisco
F12 Santa Clara
F17 at Gonzaga
F19 at Portland
F24 Pepperdine
F26 Loyola Marymount

San Francisco
N21 at Nevada
N28 Santa Barbara
N30 Lamar
D3-4 Northwestern Mutual Classic
D8 at Fresno St.
D11 Rhode Island
D20 at Nebraska
D23 San Francisco St.
D30 at Cal POLY Slo
J3 Wis.-Green Bay
J7 Boise St.
J13 at Gonzaga
J15 at Portland
J21 Loyola Marymount
J22 Pepperdine
J28 at Pepperdine
J29 at Loyola Marymount
F4 St. Mary's
F5 San Diego St.
F10 at San Diego St.
F12 at St. Mary's
F16 Santa Clara
F18 at Santa Clara
F25 Portland
F26 Gonzaga

Santa Clara
N20 Pacific
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D1 San Jose St.
D11 Humboldt St.
D14 at Fresno St.
D18 at Idaho St.
D21 at Arizona St.
D27 Purdue
D29-30 Cable Car Classic
J6 Brown
J8 at Nevada
J13 at Portland
J15 at Gonzaga
J21 Pepperdine
J22 Loyola Marymount
J28 at Loyola Marymount
J29 at Pepperdine
F4 San Diego St.
F5 St. Mary's
F10 at St. Mary's
F12 at San Diego St.
F16 at San Francisco
F18 San Francisco
F25 Gonzaga
F26 Portland

Big Sky

RANK 24

1 WEBER STATE
National Rank: 99

Coach: Joe Cravens (first year; 55-52 overall, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 25-8. Big Sky: 13-3/1st. Lost to Florida in NCAA West 2nd round.
Key players: Harold Arceneaux, F, 6-6/Sr. (22.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.8 apg); Eddie Gill, G, 6-0/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 4.6 apg).
Outlook: The defending champion Wildcats return only two starters from last year's team, which upset North Carolina in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. But those two—seniors Arceneaux and Gill—might be the two best players in the Big Sky. Arceneaux was the league's MVP and second-leading scorer last year, and Gill led the conference in free-throw percentage (.874) and steals (86). The Wildcats didn't exactly knock the league dead in recruiting, thanks in part to some coaching uncertainties caused by Ron Abegglen's decision to retire at the end of the 1998-99 season. But if his successor, Cravens, can keep Arceneaux and Gill happy, there will be no more dangerous team in the Big Sky.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Ogden, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Events Center (12,000).

2 NORTHERN ARIZONA
National Rank: 140

Coach: Mike Adras (first year).
1998-99 record: 21-8. Big Sky: 12-4/2nd.
Key players: Dan McClintock, C, 7-0/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 0.5 apg); Ross Land, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.2 apg); Billy Hix, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.8 apg).
Outlook: Former coach Ben Howland parlayed back-to-back conference titles and last-year's second-place finish into a new job at Utah State. Now Adras, a former assistant under Howland, is in charge of keeping the Lumberjacks' program at the league's highest level. Fortunately for Adras, he has several talented veterans—including three starters—returning. And one of those, 7-foot senior McClintock, has the potential to develop into one of the best post players the school has witnessed. Throw in Land, a 50.9 percent 3-point shooter as a junior, and versatile small forward Hix, and there seems to be little doubt that NAU still belongs among the league's elite.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Flagstaff, Ariz. **Home court:** Walkup Skydome (7,000).

3 MONTANA STATE
National Rank: 166

Coach: Mick Durham (144-114, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-13. Big Sky: 9-7/T3rd.
Key players: Jeff Riggs, G, 5-10/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 5.0 apg); John Lazosky, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.5 apg); Justin Brown, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.3 apg).
Outlook: The Bobcats suffered a couple of key graduation losses in Nate Holmstadt, a three-time all-league selection, and 3-point specialist Danny Sprinkle. Holmstadt and Sprinkle combined to average more than 37 points a game in 1998-99. But Durham seems to have reloaded nicely, thanks to an exceptional group of young players headed by Brown, Aaron Rich and Kyle Stirmlinger, who contributed as freshmen last year. Riggs, who transferred from Oregon State last season, should emerge as one of the best backcourt players in the league, and Lazosky has proved he can muscle up with almost anyone in the conference on the inside.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Bozeman, Mont. **Home court:** Worthington Arena (7,250).

4 PORTLAND STATE
National Rank: 175

Coach: Joel Sobotka (17-11, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 17-11. Big Sky: 9-7/T3rd.
Key players: Hasan Artharee, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 0.6 apg); Derek Nesland, G, 6-6/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.1 apg).
Outlook: The Vikings lost Big Sky scoring leader Jason Hartman and shooting guard Brian Towne to graduation, but second-year coach Sobotka needs little sympathy. PSU is loaded with established veteran players such as Artharee, Nesland and Reggie Ball, and boasts one of the league's top recruiting classes. Replacing Hartman and Towne, who combined to average more than 34 points a game last year, won't be easy, but the Vikings seem bent on shoving their way into the role of annual title contenders. The key could be 6-11, 270-pound freshman center Steven Hamilton.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Portland, Ore. **Home courts:** The Rose Garden (19,980); Memorial Coliseum (12,000).

5 MONTANA
National Rank: 185

Coach: Don Holst (13-14, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 13-14. Big Sky: 6-10/7th.
Key players: Matt Williams, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.2 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 0.6 apg); Mike Warhank, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.9 apg).
Outlook: The Grizzlies struggled last season under first-year coach Holst, and with good reason. All-conference guard J.R. Camel decided not to return for his senior season because of personal reasons, and the Grizzlies played most of their home games at a high school gym while their on-campus facility was undergoing a $14.8 million renovation. This year, Holst takes his team back into the familiar surroundings of Adams Field House, with hopes of re-establishing itself as one of the elite programs in the Big Sky. All-league forward Williams provides a steadying influence on the front line, and Warhank is one of the deadliest 3-point shooters in the conference.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Missoula, Mont. **Home court:** Adams Field House/Dahlberg Arena (7,500).

6 CS NORTHRIDGE
National Rank: 202

Coach: Bobby Braswell (43-43, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 17-12. Big Sky: 9-7/T3rd.
Key players: Brian Heinle, C, 6-9/Jr. (12.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.9 apg); Andre Larry, F, 6-9/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 0.9 apg).
Outlook: The Matadors lived off transfers last season, and this year most of those former JC players can be considered Division I veterans. Braswell again has amassed a ton of talent—including a stable full of athletic front-line players such as Heinle and Larry—but depth in the back court and chemistry still are major concerns. The graduation loss of all-league swingman Derrick Higgins will hurt, yet there is little reason to expect a major dropoff from last season, when Northridge tied for third with Northern Arizona and Portland State.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Northridge, Calif. **Home court:** The Matadome (3,000).

7 IDAHO STATE
National Rank: 237

Coach: Doug Oliver (6-20, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 6-20. Big Sky: 4-12/8th.
Key players: Kevin Sweetwyne, G, 6-2/Sr. (17.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.1 apg); Jordie McTavish, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer from Utah, redshirted last season); Ammer Johnson, F, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.5 apg); Stephen Brown, G, 6-0/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 3.2 apg).
Outlook: The Bengals have been down for a couple of years and still don't seem to have enough bite to challenge for a first-division finish. But second-year coach Doug Oliver could have the best newcomer in the league in Utah transfer McTavish, who will team with all-league selection Sweetwyne in the backcourt. Johnson was a solid contributor from the wing last season and should be even better as a senior. But the Bengals won't be nearly as physical up front without 6-8, 250-pounder Odell Stokes.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Pocatello, Idaho. **Home court:** Holt Arena (8,000).

8 EASTERN WASHINGTON
National Rank: 263

Coach: Steve Aggers (36-70, 4 years; 224-210 overall, 15 years).
1998-99 record: 10-17. Big Sky: 7-9/6th.
Key players: Chris White, F, 6-9/Jr. (6.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 0.3 apg); Deon Williams, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 5.4 apg); Will Levy, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 0.4 apg).
Outlook: Aggers lost several key players—Shannon Taylor, Alex Carcamo, Tony McGee and Jason Humbert—to an assortment of reasons, ranging from graduation to grades to personal problems. And Williams, despite leading the league in assists last year, has not developed into the point guard Aggers still covets. As a result, Williams may move to off-guard this winter, with JC transfer Jamal Jones taking over the point. If that change clicks, the Eagles could be so-so, because White and Levy create a decent inside presence.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cheney, Wash. **Home court:** Reese Court (6,000).

9 SACRAMENTO STATE
National Rank: 295

Coach: Tom Abatemarco (4-48, 2 years; 63-99 overall, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 3-23. Big Sky: 3-13/9th.
Key players: Anthony Flood, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.0 apg); Rene Jacques, G, 6-1/Soph. (9.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.0 apg).
Outlook: The Hornets have been horrible since joining the Big Sky three years ago. But last year's 3-13 league record suggests Abatemarco finally might have the program steered in the right direction. The Hornets' 1998-99 roster was laden with freshmen such as Jacques, who can now count himself among the battle-tested. The addition of a couple of wide-body recruits for the front line will help, too, but Abatemarco's pups are still too young to run with the league's big dogs.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Sacramento, Calif. **Home court:** Memorial Auditorium (2,603).

By Steve Bergum *Spokane Spokesman-Review*

All-Big Sky

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Eddie Gill, Weber State	6-0	190	Sr.
G	Ross Land, Northern Arizona	6-5	205	Sr.
C	Dan McClintock, Northern Arizona	7-0	260	Sr.
F	Matt Williams, Montana	6-7	215	Sr.
F	Harold Arceneaux, Weber State	6-6	215	Sr.

Player of the Year

Harold Arceneaux, F, Weber State

Newcomer of the Year

Jordy McTavish, G, Idaho State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Ross Land, Northern Arizona
Best rebounder: Will Levy, Eastern Washington
Best playmaker: Reggie Ball, Portland State
Best defender: Eddie Gill, Weber State
Best leaper: Harold Arceneaux, Weber State
Most versatile: Eddie Gill, Weber State
Most flamboyant: Reggie Ball, Portland State
Best NBA prospect: Harold Arceneaux, Weber State

Big Sky Schedules

CS Northridge
N19 at USC
N27 Cal State Dominguez Hills
N30 at Fresno St.
D4 at Cal Poly SLO
D6 Oral Roberts
D11 at Oregon
D20 at Oral Roberts
D22 at UTEP
D28 St. Francis College
D30 San Jose St.
J2 Cal Poly-SLO
J6 Northern Arizona
J8 at Idaho St.
J13 at Portland St.
J15 at Eastern Wash.
J20 Montana St.
J22 Montana
J27 at Sacramento St.
J29 at Weber St.
F3 Idaho St.
F12 at Northern Arizona
F17 at Montana
F19 at Montana St.
F24 Eastern Wash.
F26 Portland St.
M2 Weber St.
M4 Sacramento St.

Eastern Wash.
N20 at Baylor
N22 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
N26 at Gonzaga
N29 Idaho
D4 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
D11 Northwest College
D15 at Oregon St.
D18 at Colorado
D21 at San Diego St.
D29 Cascade
J6 at Idaho St.
J13 Northern Ariz.
J15 CS Northridge
J20 at Sacramento St.
J22 at Weber St.
J27 at Montana St.
J29 at Montana
F4 Weber St.
F5 Portland St.
F11 at Portland St.
F17 Idaho St.
F19 Sacramento St.
F24 at CS Northridge
F26 at Northern Arizona
M2 Montana St.
M4 Montana

Idaho State
N23 at Boise St.
N29 Lewis-Clark St.
D4 West. Montana
D9 at Sou. Utah
D11 at Portland
D18 Santa Clara
D21-22 Tribune Holiday Classic
D28-29 Gossner Foods Classic
J3 Wyoming
J6 Eastern Wash.
J8 CS Northridge
J13 at Montana
J15 at Montana St.
J20 Portland St.
J21 Weber St.
J27 Northern Ariz.
J29 Sacramento St.
F3 at CS Northridge
F5 at Northern Arizona
F11 Montana
F12 Montana St.
F17 at E.Wash.
F19 at Portland St.
F24 at Weber St.
F26 at Sacramento St.

Montana
N21 Gonzaga
N27 at SE Missouri St.
D5 at Idaho
D10-11 Coca-Cola Classic
D17 Youngstown St.
D20 at Gonzaga
D30 St. Mary's
J8 Montana St.
J13 Idaho St.
J15 Weber St.
J20 at Northern Arizona
J22 at CS Northridge
J27 Portland St.
J29 Eastern Wash.
F3 Sacramento St.
F5 at Montana St.
F10 at Weber St.
F11 at Idaho St.
F 17 CS Northridge
F19 Northern Ariz.
F24 at Sacramento St.
M2 at Portland St.
M4 at E. Wash.

Montana State
N18-21 Top of the World Classic
N27 CS Fullerton
D3-4 Cyclone Challenge
D6 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
D11 Wyoming
D18 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
D21 Dickinson St.
D29-30 Bobcat Holiday Classic
J4 Rocky Mountain
J8 at Montana
J13 Weber State
J15 Idaho St.
J20 at CS Northridge
J22 at Northern Arizona
J27 Eastern Wash.
J29 Portland State
F4 Sacramento St.
F5 Montana
F10 at Sacramento St.
F12 at Idaho St.
F17 Northern Ariz.
F19 CS Northridge
F26 at Weber St.
M2 at E.Wash.
M4 at Portland St.

Northern Arizona
N20 Boise St.
N23 at Cal Poly
N27 San Jose St.
N30 Utah State
D4 at Colorado
D9 at Utah St.
D11 at Boise St.
D18 Cal Poly
D22 at Oregon
J4 at Sacramento St.
J6 at CS Northridge
J13 at E.Wash.
J15 at Portland St.
J20Montana
J22 Montana St.
J26 at Idaho St.
J28 at Weber St.
F5 Idaho St.
F12 CS Northridge
F17 at Montana St.
F19 at Montana
F24 at Portland St.
F26 Eastern Wash.
M2 Sacramento St.
M4 Weber St.

Portland State
N12 Simon Fraser
N20 at Arizona St.
N23 Portland
N27 at Cal Poly
N29 at Pacific
D3-4 Oregon
D11 at Air Force
D20 Wash. St.
D28-29 Golden Bear Classic
J2 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J7 at Weber St.
J13 CS Northridge
J15 Northern Ariz.
J20 at Idaho St.
J22 at Sacramento St.
J27 at Montana
J29 at Montana St.
F3 Weber St.
F5 at E.Wash.
F11 Eastern Wash.
F17 Sacramento St.
F19 Idaho St.
F24 at Northern Arizona
F26 at CS Northridge
M2 Montana
M4 Montana St.

Sacramento St.
N19 Menlo College
N22 Southern Utah
N26 at Nevada
D4-5 Northwestern Mutual Classic
D8 Nevada
D11 at St. Mary's
D18 at Stanford
D21 at Houston
D27 Colorado St.
D30 Portland
J4 Northern Ariz.
J8 At Weber St.
J20 Eastern Wash.
J22 Portland St.
J27 CS Northridge
J29 at Idaho St.
F3 at Montana
F4 at Montana St.
F10 Montana St.
F12 Weber St.
F17 at Portland St.
F19 at E.Wash.
F24 Montana
F26 Idaho St.
M2 at Northern Arizona
M4 at CS Northridge

Weber State
N22 Westminster
N27 Sou. Virginia
D1 Utah
D4 at Boise State
D10-11 Cougar Classic
D18 Sou. Utah
D21 Utah State
D28-29 Capital City Classic
J6 Portland State
J8 Sacramento St.
J13 at Montana St.
J15 at Montana
J21 at Idaho St.
J22 Eastern Wash.
J28 Northern Ariz.
J29 CS Northridge
F3 at Portland St.
F4 at E.Wash.
F10 Montana
F12 at Sacramento St.
F24 Idaho State
F26 Montana St.
M2 at CS Northridge
M4 at Northern Arizona

Big South

RANK 30

1 WINTHROP
National Rank: 124

Coach: Gregg Marshall (21-8, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 21-8. Big South: 9-1/1st. Lost to Auburn in NCAA South 1st round.
Key players: Tyson Waterman, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.3 apg, 3.8 rpg); Robbie Waldrop, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (11.4 ppg); Roger Toxey, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Brian Fisher, F/C, 6-7/Soph. (transfer); Derrick Knox, F/G, 6-4/Soph. (transfer).
Outlook: In his first year as coach, Marshall turned the Eagles from a team picked to finish in the Big South second division to regular-season and conference tournament champions. Marshall learned his multiple offenses and in-your-face defenses from his former boss at the College of Charleston, the legendary John Kresse. A year deeper into Marshall's system makes Waterman, Waldrop and Toxey—among the Big South's top-10 scorers last season—all the more dangerous. Fisher figures to take over the power forward void left by Heson Groves, the Big South's leading rebounder.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Rock Hill, S.C. **Home court:** Winthrop Coliseum (6,100).

2 RADFORD
National Rank: 229

Coach: Ron Bradley (141-88, 8 years; 237-139 overall, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-8. Big South: 8-2/2nd.
Key players: Rian Everett, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 3.3 apg); Ryan Charles, C, 6-10/Sr. (15.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg); Jason Williams, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg); Andrey Savtchenko, C, 7-0/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Lamar King, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 3.3 apg); Jamar Betz, F, 6-5/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg); Raymond Arrington, G, 6-3/Fr.
Outlook: There is hope in Highlander country of hanging with mighty Winthrop. Radford fell just short against Winthrop last season with Charles and Everett playing hurt, and the next six best players also are returning. Bradley will have to find playing time for freshman guard Arrington, perhaps Radford's most decorated recruit. Radford won 13 straight games down the stretch last season, a Big South record, before losing to Winthrop in the Big South tournament championship game.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Radford, Va. **Home court:** Dedmon Center (5,000).

3 UNC-ASHEVILLE
National Rank: 246

Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (48-37, 3 years; 77-88 overall, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 11-18. Big South: 5-5/3rd.
Key players: Matt Osikowicz, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 3.9 apg, 52.2 FG%); John Risinger, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg); Adam Earnhardt, C, 7-0/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.6 bpg).
Outlook: Last season was one to forget for the Bulldogs. Expected to repeat as Big South regular-season conference champions, they instead lost seven of their last 11 games—two in overtime, one by one point and another by four points at Winthrop. Big South Player of the Year Kevin Martin is gone, but Biedenbach, who has helped rebuild teams in the ACC, among other leagues, can form an offense around gradually improving center Earnhardt. Osikowicz and Risinger also must pick up the scoring load. Another tough non-conference schedule should prepare the Bulldogs for Big South play.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Asheville, N.C. **Home courts:** Justice Center (1,570); Asheville Civic Center (6,000).

4 LIBERTY
National Rank: 265

By Gene Sapakoff
Charleston (S.C.) Post and Courier

All-Big South

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Tyson Waterman, Winthrop	6-0	190	Sr.
G	Delawn Grandison, Liberty	6-5	220	Sr.
C	Ryan Charles, Radford	6-10	230	Sr.
F/G	Robbie Waldrop, Winthrop	6-4	160	Jr.
F	Nick Mitchell, Charleston Southern	6-5	190	Jr.

Player of the Year
Tyson Waterman, G, Winthrop

Newcomer of the Year
Raymond Arrington, G, Radford

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Tyson Waterman, Winthrop
Best rebounder: Delawn Grandison, Liberty
Best playmaker: Tyson Waterman, Winthrop
Best defender: Rian Everett, Radford
Best leaper: Robbie Waldrop, Winthrop
Most versatile: Roger Toxey, Winthrop
Most flamboyant: Tyson Waterman, Winthrop
Best NBA prospect: Rian Everett, Radford

Coach: Mel Hankinson (4-23, 1 year; 329-299 overall, 22 years).
1998-99 record: 4-23. Big South: 0-10/6th.
Key players: Delawn Grandison, F, 6-5/Sr. (16.0 ppg, 6.7 rpg); Carl Williams, G/F, 6-0/Sr. (transfer from West Virginia); Nathan Day, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 51.5 FG%); Jamaal Bennett, G 6-1/Soph. (9.5 ppg, 2.3 apg).
Outlook: Hankinson's first year as coach didn't go exactly as expected; in fact, it was the worst basketball season since Jerry Falwell founded the school. But watch for the Flames to take big steps by January. Four junior-college transfers, plus West Virginia transfer Williams, join a group of holdovers led by Grandison, who led the Big South in scoring. Williams is a versatile, athletic player known as a superb defender. Bennett may blossom into an all-conference-caliber player; he scored 35 points against UNC-Asheville. Guard C.J. Cowgill (14.7 ppg) transferred to Chaminade.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lynchburg, Va. **Home court:** Vines Center (9,000).

5 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
National Rank: 266

Coach: Tom Conrad (34-51, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 12-16. Big South: 4-6/T4th.
Key players: Nick Mitchell, F, 6-5/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 22 blocks); O.J. Linney, F, 6-4/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Peter van Rij, C, 6-10/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg).
Outlook: In the shadow of the College of Charleston's perennial Cinderellas, Charleston Southern coaches rarely get credit for overachieving (Big South titles in 1995 and 1997). This year, Conrad and Co. must bounce back without leading scorers Adam Larrick and Vincent Mitchell. Conrad hopes for foreign aid from a contingent that includes center van Rij of The Netherlands, guard Mirko Mandic and forward Mladen Karanovic of Yugoslavia, forward Ivica Perica of Croatia and guard Eugene Ambrose of Montreal. The Buccaneers improved by seven wins last season, but they rely on six newcomers to take another stride.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** CSU Fieldhouse (1,500).

6 HIGH POINT
National Rank: 291

Coach: Jerry Steele (433-348, 27 years; 584-422 overall, 35 years).
1998-99 record: 10-16.
Key players: Geordie Cullen, F-C, 6-9/Soph. (18.3 ppg, 8.2 rpg); Derek Van Weerdhuizen, G, 6-4/Soph. (10.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 2.5 apg); Mantas Ignatavicius, G, 6-3/Soph. (10.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.4 apg, 2.2 spg).
Outlook: High Point and Elon moved up to Division I last season and played a Big South Conference schedule but were not full league members. This season, they can compete for the regular-season title and will be included in Big South statistical charts, but they cannot play in the Big South tournament until 2001. Cullen, an Australian, was among the nation's most productive freshmen last year. Anthony Jackson, a 6-2 guard and an Army veteran, joins the team as a sophomore. Steele needs 16 victories for 600 career wins. The Panthers face the toughest schedule in school history, including games at Florida, Alabama, Fresno State, UNLV and San Diego State.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997 (Division II).
Site: High Point, N.C. **Home court:** Millis Athletic Center (2,565).

7 ELON
National Rank: 308

Coach: Mark Simons (62-103, 6 years; 157-205 overall, 13 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16.
Key players: Brendan Rowell, G, 6-3/Soph. (14.7 ppg); Morgan Bell, C, 6-10/Sr. (11.5 ppg); Dennis Gaskins, G, 6-0/Jr. (9.9 ppg); Andrew Toole, G/Soph. (9.9 ppg.).
Outlook: Like High Point, Elon held its own against a Big South Conference schedule last season and becomes eligible for the regular-season title this year. And, like High Point, Elon may surprise its way into the middle of the pack. Forward Larry McSwain, a 6-5 JC transfer, adds depth, which is good because the Fightin' Christians will be thrown into a schedule that includes games at Virginia, Tennessee, Rutgers, Notre Dame and DePaul. Elon swept VMI of the Southern Conference last year and split with High Point.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Elon, N.C. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (2,000).

8 COASTAL CAROLINA
National Rank: 311

Coach: Pete Strickland (7-20, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 7-20. Big South: 4-6/T4th.
Key players: Steve Miles, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Todd Shannon, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.5 ppg); Matt Gladieux, G, 6-5/Sr. (transfer from Bellarmine College, two years at Toledo).
Outlook: With the ocean, sand and trendy hangouts of Myrtle Beach 15 minutes away, you would think Coastal Carolina would draw more recruits than other Big South schools. Gladieux, a terrific shooter, and 6-9 freshman forward Mihai Raducanu, a former member of the Canadian junior national team, found their way to Conway. However, Marcus Stewart, a 6-5 forward who averaged 13.3 points in 18 games, transferred across the state to rival Winthrop. Miles was the Big South's Rookie of the Year as a freshman.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Conway, S.C. **Home court:** Kimbel Gym (1,800).

Big South Schedules

Charleston Southern
N20 at St. Peter's
N22 at Rutgers
N27 North Greenville
N30 at S. Carolina
D4 at Clemson
D7 Furman
D10 Anderson
D18 Stetson
D20 at S.C. State
D29-30 College of Charleston Classic
J3 Lees-McRae
J5 at College of Charleston
J15 at High Point
J17 at Elon
J22 Radford
J24 Liberty
J27 At UNC-Asheville
J29 Coastal Carolina
F2 at Winthrop
F5 Elon
F7 High Point
F12 at Liberty
F14 at Radford
F19 Winthrop
F23 UNC-Asheville
F26 Coastal Carolina

Coastal Carolina
N20 Jacksonville
N23 at Citadel
N27 at Fairleigh Dickinson
D1 UNC-Greensboro
D4 George Mason
D11 at Dayton
D13 at Ohio State
D16 at Furman
D20 Campbell
D30 at Georgetown
J2 at Maryland
J10 at American
J15 at Elon
J17 at High Point
J19 at College of Charleston
J22 Liberty
J24 Radford
J27 at Winthrop
J29 at Charleston Southern
F2 UNC-Asheville
F5 High Point
F7 Elon
F12 at Radford
F14 at Liberty
F19 at UNC-Asheville
F23 Winthrop
F26 Charleston Southern

Elon
N19 at Virginia
N22 at Tennessee
N24 Bridgewater Coll.
N26 at SUNY-Albany
N29 at UNC-Greensboro
D2 at Campbell
D8 Davidson
D18 at Rutgers
D28 at Notre Dame
D30 at DePaul
J4 Sou. Virginia Coll.
J7 Greensboro Coll.
J10 SUNY-Stony Brook
J13 North Carolina A&T
J15 Coastal Carolina
J17 Charleston Southern
J22 at UNC-Asheville
J24 Winthrop
J27 at Liberty
J29 at High Point
F2 Radford
F5 at Charleston Southern
F7 at Coastal Carolina
F12 UNC-Asheville
F16 at Winthrop
F 19 at Radford
F23 Liberty
F 26 High Point

High Point
N20 Lees-McRae
N26-27 Alabama Tournament
N30 at Campbell
D2 Longwood
D11 Erskine
D17 at Wake Forest
D19 at Florida
D21 at Jacksonville
D30 Yale
J2 at San Diego St.
J4 at UNLV
J7 at Fresno St.
J9 at UC Irvine
J15 Charleston Sou.
J17 Coastal Carolina
J22 at Winthrop
J24 UNC-Asheville
J27 at Radford
J29 Elon
F1 at Liberty
F5 at Coastal Carolina
F7 at Charleston Southern
F12 Winthrop
F16 at UNC-Asheville
F19 Liberty
F24 Radford
F26 at Elon

Liberty
N15 Crossfire
N20 Clinch Valley
N22 Tusculum
N29 James Madison
D2 Towson
D4 Albany
D7 at Richmond
D11 at Virginia Tech
D13 East Stroudsburg
D17 at N.C. State
D30 Covenant
J5 at Navy
J8 at Yale
J11 at Boston U.
J15 UNC-Asheville
J17 Winthrop
J22 at Coastal Carolina
J24 at Charleston Southern
J27 Elon
J29 at Radford
F1 High Point
F5 at Winthrop
F9 at UNC-Asheville
F12 Charleston Southern
F14 Coastal Carolina
F19 at High Point
F23 at Elon
F26 Radford

UNC-Asheville
N19 at Missouri
N21 at St. Louis
N24 at Tennessee
N27 at Tennessee Tech
N29 Virginia Tech
D1 at Western Carolina
D4 at Connecticut
D7 at Kentucky
D12 at N.C. State
D18 E. Tennessee St.
D29 at Marshall
J2 Mercer
J6 Montreat
J12 at Charleston Southern
J15 at Liberty
J19 at Radford
J22 Elon
J24 at High Point
J29 Winthrop
F2 at Coastal Carolina
F5 Radford
F9 Liberty
F12 at Elon
F15 High Point
F19 Coastal Carolina
F23 Charleston Southern
F26 at Winthrop

Radford
N19-20 Florida International Tip-Off Tour.
N23 at St. Peter's
D4 at Marshall
D9 at Virginia Tech
D11 James Madison
D18 Virginia Commonwealth
D29-30 Dr Pepper Classic
J2 Tennessee
J7 at Hampton
J11 Concord
J15 Winthrop
J17 Richmond
J19 UNC-Asheville
J22 at Charleston Southern
J24 at Coastal Carolina
J27 High Point
J29 Liberty
F2 at Elon
F5 at UNC-Asheville
F9 at Winthrop
F12 Coastal Carolina
F14 Charleston Southern
F19 Elon
F24 at High Point
F26 at Liberty

Winthrop
N20 Lee
N23 Central Fla.
N27 Citadel
D2 at Georgia Southern
D4 at Dayton
D7 at Maryland
D16 at Campbell
D18 at Clemson
D21 UNC-Greensboro
D29 South Carolina-Aiken
J4 at Missouri
J7 Lees-McRae
J10 William & Mary
J15 at Radford
J17 at Liberty
J22 High Point
J24 at Elon
J27 Coastal Carolina
J29 at UNC-Asheville
F2 Charleston Southern
F5 Liberty
F9 Radford
F12 at High Point

Ivy League

RANK 23

By Mark Eckel
Trenton (N.J.) Times

All-Ivy

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Michael Jordan, Pennsylvania	6-0	175	Sr.
G	Greg Buth, Dartmouth	6-4	190	Jr.
C	Chris Young, Princeton	6-11	235	So.
F	Ray Mercedes, Cornell	6-5	230	Jr.
F	Dan Clemente, Harvard	6-7	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Chris Young, C, Princeton

Newcomer of the Year

Ugonna Onyekwe, F, Pennsylvania

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Greg Buth, Dartmouth
Best rebounder: Ian McGinnis, Dartmouth
Best playmaker: Michael Jordan, Pennsylvania
Best defender: Eugene Baah, Princeton
Best leaper: Ray Mercedes, Cornell
Most versatile: Michael Jordan, Pennsylvania
Most flamboyant: Ray Mercedes, Cornell
Best NBA prospect: None.

1 PENNSYLVANIA
National Rank: 96

Coach: Fran Dunphy (173-97, 9 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 21-6. Ivy: 13-1/1st. Lost to Florida in NCAA West 1st round.
Key players: Michael Jordan, G, 6-0, Sr. (15.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.6 apg); Matt Langel, G, 6-5, Sr. (11.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.1 apg); Geoff Owens, C, 6-11, Sr. (9.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 2.2 bpg); Ugonna Onyekwe, F, 6-8, Fr.; Josh Sanger, F, 6-8, Jr. (1.6 ppg, 2.2 rpg); Lamar Plummer, G, 6-0, Jr. (4.3 ppg).
Outlook: The Quakers return three starters from last year's Ivy champions: the versatile Jordan, sharp-shooting Langel and big man Owens. Onyekwe might be the best thing to happen in Philadelphia since they put cheese on steaks. He should make an immediate impact at power forward. Again, it should come down to Penn and Princeton for the league title and automatic NCAA berth. Last year, the Quakers learned how to finally beat the Tigers, ending a six-game losing streak. That should work to their advantage this season.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Palestra (8,700).

2 PRINCETON
National Rank: 126

Coach: Bill Carmody (73-14, 3 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-8. Ivy: 11-3/2nd. Lost to Xavier in NIT 3rd round.
Key players: Chris Young, C, 6-11, So. (12.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 2.9 apg); Mason Rocca, F, 6-9, Sr. (7.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.3 apg); Cameron Carr, F, 6-7, Fr.; Eugene Baah, G, 6-5, So. (1.9 ppg); Ahmed El-Nokali, G, 6-4, So. (2.5 ppg, 1.5 rpg); Chris Krug, F, 6-9, So. (2.1 ppg, 2.7 rpg).
Outlook: Captains Brian Earl and Gabe Lewullis are gone. But don't let the Tigers' youth fool you. Rocca may be the team's only senior, but sophomores Young, El-Nokali and Krug got plenty of minutes as freshmen. Princeton could be devastating up front with Young, Rocca and Cameron Carr—the son of former NBA player Kenny Carr—starting, and with Krug and Nate Walton, the son of Bill Walton, coming off the bench. Princeton's problems could come from a lack of scoring in the backcourt, where El-Nokali and Baah are known more for their defensive prowess. Sophomore "Sugar" Ray Robins is a 6-7 scorer who just needs to fit into the Tigers' system. With a break here or there, the Tigers just might unseat the Quakers.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Princeton, N.J. **Home court:** Jadwin Gym (6,854).

3 DARTMOUTH
National Rank: 164

Coach: Dave Faucher (99-109, 8 years).
1998-99 record: 14-12. Ivy: 10-4/3rd.
Key players: Greg Buth, G, 6-3, Jr. (16.5 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 49.1 FG%); Shaun Gee, F, 6-7, Sr. (17.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.1 apg); Flinder Boyd, G, 5-11, So. (7.2 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 5.8 apg); Ian McGinnis, C, 6-8, Jr. (8.2 ppg, 12.2 rpg); Charles Harris, F, 6-4, So. (8.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg).
Outlook: The Big Green return their starting lineup from last year's third-place finishers, and they should find themselves in that spot again. Buth and Gee give Dartmouth a dynamic scoring punch. McGinnis led the nation in rebounding last year, and Boyd is a pure point guard, perhaps the league's finest. But the team has a lack of size, especially against the Tigers, and a lack of overall depth to challenge Penn or Princeton. Then there's the coaching matchup, where new coach Faucher—who is 1-15 against Princeton and 3-13 against Penn—has been overmatched against Bill Carmody and Fran Dunphy, two of the best in the business.
Last league title: 1959.
Last NCAA appearance: 1959.
Site: Hanover, N.H. **Home court:** Leede Arena (2,100).

4 CORNELL
National Rank: 176

Coach: Scott Thompson (35-43, 3 years; 140-192 overall, 10 years).
1998-99 record: 11-15. Ivy: 6-8/5th.
Key players: Ray Mercedes, F, 6-5, Jr. (14.2 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 2.0 apg); Wallace Prather, G, 5-9, So. (12.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 3.4 apg); Kerian Brown, F, 6-6, Sr. (8.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Kevin Cuttica, G, 6-3, Jr. (7.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg); Derek Kruse, C, 6-8, Sr. (4.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg).
Outlook: Mercedes and Prather, two of the league's most exciting players, will be worth the price of admission this season. Mercedes, a New York City native, is primed to have a monster year after showing signs last year that he could handle himself with the league's best. Prather is a mercurial point guard with big-time ability in a small body. Brown, Cuttica and Kruse round out a decent starting five. The team severely lacks depth, however, a problem in battles with the top teams.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Ithaca, N.Y. **Home court:** Newman Arena (4,473).

5 YALE
National Rank: 206

Coach: James Jones (first year).
1998-99 record: 4-22. Ivy: 2-12/T7th.
Key players: Onaje Woodbine, G, 6-2, So. (9.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.0 apg); Neil Yanke, C, 6-10, So. (9.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.2 bpg); Chris Leanza, G, 6-4, Fr.; Isaiah Cavaco, G, 5-10, Jr. (6.9 ppg, 2.8 apg).
Outlook: Jones comes to New Haven with high aspirations, despite the fact the team he inherited won four games last season and was 2-12 in the league. Yale's overtime win over Princeton was the highlight of an otherwise terrible season that cost longtime coach Dick Kuchen his job. Jones already has one victory over the Tigers as well, after he persuaded prize freshman Chris Leanza to join his program over Princeton. Woodbine, a Boston native who chose Yale over Harvard, will be counted on to take another step forward from a good freshman season, and Yanke will have to be a force inside.
Last league title: 1962.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: New Haven, Conn. **Home court:** John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100).

6 HARVARD
National Rank: 275

Coach: Frank Sullivan (85-123, 8 years; 199-209 overall, 15 years).
1998-99 record: 13-13. Ivy: 7-7/4th.
Key players: Dan Clemente, F, 6-7, Jr. (14.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg); Damian Long, G, 6-2, Sr. (4.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg); Andrew Gellert, G, 6-2, So. (4.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.0 apg); Tim Coleman, F, 6-8, Jr. (2.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg).
Outlook: Sullivan is going to have a tough time replacing All-Ivy point guard Tim Hill. Clemente, the former league Rookie of the Year, will have to take charge. The big man can score inside and outside. He's certainly one of the league's top players. After that, the Crimson are very inexperienced, with Long and Gellert the only other returnees to average more than 12 minutes per game last season. Sullivan always manages to win a game or two he shouldn't (Harvard beat Princeton last year), but that might be tough to accomplish this year.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1946.
Site: Cambridge, Mass. **Home court:** Lavietes Pavilion (2,195).

7 COLUMBIA
National Rank: 289

Coach: Armond Hill (34-70, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 10-16. Ivy: 5-9/6th.
Key players: Craig Austin, F, 6-5, So. (6.2 ppg, 2.0 rpg); Mike McBrien, C, 6-8, So. (5.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Michael Merley, F, 6-8, Jr. (2.2 ppg, 1.8 rpg).
Outlook: After four years as coach of the Lions, former Princeton star and NBA player Hill has his team playing Tiger-like defense. Last year, Columbia finished third in the league in defense, allowing 65 points per game. However, the team has yet to grasp the offensive aspects, as it finished last in scoring, 3-point shooting and free-throw percentage. And with his three top offensive players from last season gone, Hill has no idea where he will get his scoring. Sophomores Austin and McBrien, who started 25 games between them last year, figure to be the top two threats. Joe Case, another sophomore, saw just nine minutes a game last season. He's another possibility for Hill.
Last league title: 1968.
Last NCAA appearance: 1968.
Site: New York. **Home court:** Levien Gym (3,400).

8 BROWN
National Rank: 297

Coach: Glenn Miller (first year; 95-58 overall, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 4-22. Ivy: 2-12/T7th.
Key players: Shaun Ethridge, F, 6-7, So. (8.3 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Travis Brown, G, 6-4, So. (7.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Corey Vandiver, G, 6-0, Sr. (6.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 3.2 apg); Josh Meyer, F, 6-6, So. (5.8 ppg, 2.2 rpg).
Outlook: Miller, who took Connecticut College to the Division III Final Four, takes over the Bears and tries to pick up the pieces. There are some decent young players to build with in Ethridge, Brown and Meyer, but it's going to take time and patience before the Bears even get to the middle of the Ivy League pack.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Pizzitra Sports Center (12,800).

More on the Ivy League at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

Ivy Schedules

Brown	Columbia	Cornell	Dartmouth	Harvard	Pennsylvania	Princeton	Yale
N22 at Providence	N20 Lafayette	N21 at Buffalo	N19-20 Mohegan Sun Classic	N20 Washington & Lee	D3 Army	N12-13 NABC Classic	N19 at Lehigh
N28 at Maine	N23 at Duke	N23 Army	N23 Keene St.	N23 at Holy Cross	D4 Penn State	N20 Monmouth	N21 Vermont
D1 Rhode Island	N27 Stevens Tech	N27 at Sacred Heart	N26 at New Hampshire	N27 at Lehigh	D8 at La Salle	N27 Ohio	N25 at Colorado
D4 New Hampshire	N30 at Quinnipiac	N29 at Lafayette	N30 Holy Cross	N30 Marist	D11 at Auburn	D3-4 Food Lion Classic	N26 at Denver
D8 Denver	D3-4 Ameritas Classic	D3-4 First Merchants Classic	D11 at Quinnipiac	D4 Navy	D28-29 Golden Bear Classic	D7 at Bucknell	D2-3 Phoenix Classic
D22 Robert Morris	D8 at SUNY-Stony Brook	D7 Clarkson	D15 at Harvard	D7 at Boston U.	J4 at Kansas	D9 Texas Christian	D6 Army
J3 at Holy Cross	D11 Lehigh	D21-22 Coors Light Classic	D18 at San Diego St.	D11 Colgate	J12 Lafayette	D12 at Rutgers	D9 Holy Cross
J6 at Santa Clara	D13 at Seton Hall	D30 Lehigh	D21 at Loyola Marymount	D15 Dartmouth	J15 at Lehigh	D18 UAB	D20 at St. Francis (NY)
J8 at San Jose St.	D29-30 Stanford Invitational	J4 Colgate	D30 Air Force	D18 Northeastern	J22 St. Joseph's	D22 at Kansas	D28 at N.C. State
J11 at Quinnipiac	J9 at Army	J8 at Bucknell	J8 Harvard	D21 at Sacred Heart	J28 at Columbia	D27 at Xavier	D30 at High Point
J14 Dartmouth	J15 Cornell	J15 at Columbia	J14 at Brown	J2 at Vermont	J29 at Cornell	D31 Holy Cross	J8 Liberty
J15 Harvard	J22 at Cornell	J22 Columbia	J15 at Yale	J6 SUNY-Albany	F4 Yale	J8 Lafayette	J14 Harvard
J18 SUNY-Stony Brook	J28 Pennsylvania	J28 Princeton	J22 at Colgate	J8 at Dartmouth	F5 at Brown	J28 at Cornell	J15 Dartmouth
J22 at Yale	J29 Princeton	J30 Pennsylvania	J26 Vermont	J14 at Yale	F8 Drexel	J29 at Columbia	J22 Brown
J25 at Northeastern	F4 at Dartmouth	F4 at Harvard	J29 at SUNY-Albany	J15 at Brown	F11 Harvard	F4 at Brown	J29 at Brown
J29 Yale	F5 at Harvard	F5 at Dartmouth	F4 Columbia	J31 at Hartford	F12 Dartmouth	F5 at Yale	F4 Pennsylvania
F4 Princeton	F11 Brown	F8 SUNY-Stony Brook	F5 Cornell	F4 Cornell	F15 at Princeton	F11 Dartmouth	F5 Princeton
F5 Pennsylvania	F12 Yale	F11 Yale	F11 at Princeton	F5 Columbia	F19 Cornell	F12 Harvard	F11 at Cornell
F8 Lehigh	F18 at Princeton	F12 Brown	F12 at Pennsylvania	F11 at Pennsylvania	F20 Columbia	F15 Pennsylvania	F12 at Columbia
F11 at Columbia	F19 at Pennsylvania	F18 at Pennsylvania	F18 at Yale	F12 at Princeton	F25 at Dartmouth	F18 Columbia	F18 at Dartmouth
F12 at Cornell	F25 at Yale	F19 at Princeton	F19 Brown	F18 Brown	F26 at Harvard	F19 Cornell	F19 at Harvard
F18 at Harvard	F26 at Brown	F25 at Brown	F25 at Pennsylvania	F19 Yale	M3 Brown	F25 at Harvard	F25 Columbia
F19 at Dartmouth	M3 Harvard	F26 at Yale	F26 Princeton	F25 Princeton	M4Yale	F26 at Dartmouth	F26 Cornell
F25 Cornell	M4 Dartmouth	M3 Dartmouth	M3 at Cornell	F26 Pennsylvania	M7 Princeton	M3 Yale	M3 at Princeton
F26 Columbia		M4 Harvard	M4 at Columbia	M3 at Columbia		M4 Brown	M4 at Pennsylvania
M3 at Pennsylvania				M4 at Cornell		M7 at Pennsylvania	
M4 at Princeton							

Mid-Continent

RANK 22

1 VALPARAISO
National Rank: 95

Coach: Homer Drew (167-156, 11 years; 436-278, 23 years).
1998-99 record: 23-9. Mid-Continent: 10-4/tied 1st.
Key players: Lubos Barton, F, 6-7/So. (13.8 ppg; 5.6 rpg; 2.3 apg); Ivan Vujic, C 6-10/Sr. (10.7 ppg; 6.0 rpg; 2.3 apg); Milo Stovall, G, 6-4/Jr. (10.5 ppg; 4.7 rpg; 3.0 apg); Greg Tonagel, G, 6-3/So. (5.7 ppg; 2.4 rpg; 3.0 apg).
Outlook: Gunning for their sixth straight Mid-Continent title, the monopolistic Crusaders are loaded again. Their stable of talented guards is boosted by the return of Jared Nuness, who was a part-time starter as a freshman but medically redshirted last year. Barton made all-conference and all-tournament teams and was the newcomer of the year. Vujic and Stovall made the all-newcomer team, keeping VU's pipeline to Eastern Europe pumping. All three are solid rebounders and run the floor well. The Crusaders should dominate again despite the loss of all-conference center Zoran Viskovic. Sophomore guard Tonagel, who gives the Crusaders a fourth returning starter, led the Mid-Continent with a 95.6 free-throw percentage and is being pushed by Tarrance Price for playing time. The Crusaders should again be the league's top rebounding and defensive team.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1999.
Site: Valparaiso, Ind. **Home court:** Athletics-Recreation Center (4,500).

2 ORAL ROBERTS
National Rank: 112

Coach: Scott Sutton (first year).
1998-99 record: 17-11. Mid-Continent: 10-4/tied 1st.
Key players: Derrick Taylor, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.0 ppg; 6.4 rpg; 1.4 apg); Eric Perry, G, 5-11/Jr. (11.2 ppg; 3.3 rpg; 3.2 apg); Leon Irving, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.8 ppg; 4.2 apg; 1.2 apg).
Outlook: Sutton, who moved up when Barry Hinson went to Southwest Missouri State, inherits five of the Golden Eagles' top seven scorers. Because of suspect rebounding and the loss of Chad Wilkerson, the Mid-Continent Player of the Year, the Eagles will rely on a perimeter offense. They led the league with a 77.4 average, which spurred them to a share of the title with Valparaiso. Taylor was one of the top rebounding threats in the league before a late-season injury and is expected to be near 100 percent after anterior cruciate ligament surgery late last season. Also returning is guard Nathan Binam, who started two years ago but missed last season because of a car accident. Half of his index finger on his shooting hand was amputated, but Binam's shooting is unimpaired. The Eagles could start five seniors and should make another run at ending Valparaiso's reign.
Last league title: 1984 (Midwestern Collegiate).
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Mabee Center (10,575).

3 OAKLAND
National Rank: 163

Coach: Greg Kampe (264-163, 15 years).
1998-99 record: 12-15.
Key players: Dan Champagne, F, 6-7/Jr. (15.9 ppg; 6.2 rpg; 1.1 apg); Brad Buddenborg, G, 6-4/So. (15.4 ppg; 5.4 rpg; 2.3 apg); Jason Rozycki, G, 6-2/So. (12.6 ppg; 3.5 apg); Myke Thom, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.8 ppg; 5.9 rpg).
Outlook: Buddenborg heads a dazzling 3-point perimeter offense. The Golden Grizzlies, who boasted an all-underclassmen roster last year, are armed with seven shoot-from-the-hip guards. Thom, Mychal Covington and Sean Carlson were among the pass-minded Grizzlies who ranked among the Mid-Continent assist leaders. Rozycki shot 85.9 from the line. Champagne, a threat from anywhere, is a solid rebounder and a potential conference MVP. Transfers Steve Houston, who averaged 10 points at Texas A&M and made the All-Big 12 defensive team, and 6-9 Sebastian Bellin (Marist) should contribute. The schedule is brutal, with Michigan, Michigan State and the Hawaii Pacific Tournament beckoning.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997 (Division II).
Site: Rochester, Mich. **Home court:** Student Athletic Center (3,000).

4 WESTERN ILLINOIS
National Rank: 188

Coach: Jim Kerwin (103-92, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 16-12. Mid-Continent: 9-5/tied 3rd.
Key players: Juan Martinez, F, 6-9/Sr. (13 ppg; 6.9 rpg; 1.2 apg); Fernando Coloneze, C, 6-10/Sr. (8.7 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 0.7 apg); Bill Heisler, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.7 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 2.3 apg).
Outlook: Look for the Leathernecks to storm the boards with Martinez and Coloneze. Reserves Chris Canaday, Cory Fosdyck and Curtis Haggins should be ready to step up

By John Mutka
Gary (Ind.) Post-Tribune

All-Mid-Continent

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Milo Stovall, Valparaiso	6-4	185	Jr.
G	Jeff Monaco, Southern Utah	6-0	175	Jr.
F	Lubos Barton, Valparaiso	6-7	210	So.
F/C	Juan Martinez, Western Illinois	6-9	235	Sr.
F	Dan Champagne, Oakland	6-7	220	Jr.

Player of the Year

Lubos Barton, F, Valparaiso

Newcomer of the Year

Steve Houston, G, Oakland

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Brad Buddenborg, Oakland
Best rebounder: Juan Martinez, Western Illinois
Best playmaker: Jeff Monaco, Southern Utah
Best defender: Derek Williams, IUPUI
Best leaper: Don Carlisle, IUPUI
Most versatile: Lubos Barton, Valparaiso
Most flamboyant: Jermaine Hicks, Chicago State
Best NBA prospect: Lubos Barton, Valparaiso

after logging double-figure minutes last year. The Leathernecks are perennial contenders, averaging nearly 18 victories over the last five years without denting VU's reign. They will be hard-pressed to overcome the losses of guards Shawn Dole, who averaged 15.4 points, and Brandon Creason, their assists leader. Martinez, who gave them an all-newcomer representative for the fourth straight year, is a rising star. Matt Grove, a 6-6 freshman, could provide instant offense.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Macomb, Ill. **Home court:** Western Hall (5,128).

5 YOUNGSTOWN STATE
National Rank: 203

Coach: John Robic (first year).
1998-99 record: 14-14. Mid-Continent: 9-5/tied 3rd.
Key players: Elmer Brown, F, 6-4 (9.9 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 1.3 apg); Desmond Harrison, F, 6-5/Jr. (8.6 ppg; 5.5 rpg; 3.3 apg); Albert Crockett, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.4 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 4.1 apg); Andrew Hannan, G, 6-3/Jr. (8.2 ppg; 3.6 rpg; 1.2 apg).
Outlook: Coach Dan Peters joined Bob Huggins' staff at Cincinnati but left the cupboard well-stocked. Robic inherits nine players who averaged double-figure minutes. The Penguins were strong contenders in the conference without a player averaging double figures. Defense has carried them for years, but YSU's halfcourt offense runs on low-octane fuel. Two transfers who will sit out the season are 6-6 Stephen Flores, who was hampered by a fractured thumb last year at Pittsburgh but played in 18 games, and point guard Rafael Cruz, who followed Robic from UMass. The Penguins also signed 6-9 Doug Whittler out of Detroit Murray White, the high school that produced Milwaukee Bucks star Robert Traylor.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Youngstown, Ohio. **Home court:** Beeghley Center (6,852).

6 SOUTHERN UTAH
National Rank: 255

Coach: Bill Evans (77-104, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 13-17. Mid-Continent: 6-8/5th.
Key players: Tyson Hancock, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.4 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 1.3 apg); Jeff Monaco, G, 6-0/Jr. (12.3 ppg; 3.7 rpg; 5.0 apg); Jim Faulkner, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 2.6 apg).
Outlook: The Thunderbirds must compensate for the loss of their top two rebounders, Kenyatta Clyde and Tarvish Felton. Clyde also was the Mid-Con scoring champion (16.6 ppg). If Monaco can get to the line at crunch time, the Thunderbirds will win some squeakers. The all-conference guard shot 91 percent and led the league in assists. Freshmen who could make an impact are 7-footer Nate Bloom and guard Kenyon Rogers. The team also picked up 6-10 John Wheeler and 6-7 B.J. Chandler from Utah Valley State.
Last league title: 1995 (America West).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cedar City, Utah. **Home court:** Centrum (5,300).

7 IUPU-INDIANAPOLIS
National Rank: 274

Coach: Ron Hunter (83-56, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. Mid-Continent: 6-8/5th.
Key players: Don Carlisle, F, 6-6/Jr. (13.9 ppg; 7.4 rpg; 1.5 apg); Derek Williams, F, Sr. (9.4 ppg; 4.8 rpg; 2.0 apg); Rodney Thomas, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.0 ppg; 2.0 rpg; 1.0 apg); Jermaine Gardner (3.6 ppg; 1.4 rpg; 1.8 apg).
Outlook: The Jaguars led the league with a 40.5 3-point percentage, mainly because Thomas connected on 52.2 percent of his shots. In league play, the team shot better from beyond the arc than overall. The Jags hope to reduce the pressure on their perimeter marksmen. They remain anemic on the boards except for Carlisle. He is the league's rebounding champion. Look for the resourceful Jaguars to steal a few victories with Carlisle and Williams, who ranked 1-2 in the league in that category. Hunter returns six of his top seven players, including guard Taj Hawkins. Still, lack of size will prevent a significant rise.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** IUPUI (2,000).

8 MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY
National Rank: 288

Coach: Bob Sundvold (27-57, 3 years; 109-95, six years).
1998-99 record: 8-22. Mid-Continent: 3-11/7th.
Key players: Robbie Graves, G, 6-2/So. (8.5 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 2.2 apg); Will Palmer, F, 6-7/So. (6.9 ppg; 4.5 rpg; 1.3 apg); Sherod Dent, F, 6-4/Sr. (5.9 ppg; 2.6 rpg; 1.0 apg).
Outlook: Brad Mann and Marc Stricker must step up their outside shooting to give the Kangaroos a shot at cracking the first division. They lost their go-to gunner Eddie Smith, who earned all-conference honors for averaging 16.6 points. He was this anemic offense's only significant scorer. Opposing defenses must be discouraged from collapsing, but the Kangaroos shot 33.2 percent from the arc. The 'Roos should win some games at the line, having shot 73 percent with Graves and Jimmy Keller leading the way. Sundvold gets points for recruiting, having signed seven players, including 6-9 Herb Brown, a junior out of Penn Valley (Mo.) Community College, and 6-7 Michael Jackson, who averaged 20.1 points and 8.0 rebounds at Butler County (Kan.) CC to earn JC All-American honors.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Kansas City, Mo. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium (9,287).

9 CHICAGO STATE
National Rank: 296

Coach: Bo Ellis (3-24, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 3-24. Mid-Continent: 3-11/8th.
Key players: Jermaine Hicks, G, 5-6/Sr. (14.5 ppg; 2.3 rpg; 3.4 apg); Terrence West, G, 6-0/So. (7.7 ppg; 2.7 rpg; 3.3 apg); Derrick Bolton, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.5 ppg; 7.0 rpg; 0.7 apg).
Outlook: Transfers DeWayne John, a 7-1 center from Iowa State, and Tim Bryant (Northern Illinois) could help the Cougars perk up. Ellis also signed four players in the 6-6 to 6-8 range, which could translate into their best rebounding team since they joined the Mid-Continent. To vacate the cellar, the Cougars must shoot better than 30 percent from the arc. They won't have to rely as heavily on their perimeter game. Hicks should be one of the best guards in the league, but the Cougars finished last in eight of 10 categories, including shooting 35 percent from the field.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Dickens Center (2,500).

Mid-Continent Schedules

Chicago State
N20 at Marquette
N23 at Northwestern
N27 Eastern Michigan
D1 at DePaul
D7 Illinois-Chicago
D18 at Utah
D20 St. Joseph College
D22 Hampton
D28 at Detroit
J3 at Western Ill.
J6 UMKC
J8 Oral Roberts
J13 at IUPUI
J15 at Oakland
J18 at Loyola Chicago
J20 IUPUI
J22 at Southern Utah
J27 at Valparaiso
J29 Western Ill.
F3 at Oral Roberts
F5 at UMKC
F10 Youngstown St.
F15 at Wis.-Milwaukee
F17 at Youngstown St.
F19 Oakland
F24 Valparaiso
F26 Southern Utah

IUPUI
N20 at Evansville
N24 Miami of Ohio
N27 at Pittsburgh
N30 at Ill.-Chicago
D3-4 Northwestern Mutual Classic
D11 Cal Poly SLO
D13 at Arizona
D23 Eastern Mich.
D28 at Cal Poly SLO
J6 Youngstown St.
J8 at Sou. Utah
J13 Chicago State
J15 at Western Ill.
J20 at Chicago St.
J24 at Butler
J27 Oakland
J29 Valparaiso
F3 Southern Utah
F5 at Youngstown St.
F10 Oral Roberts
F12 UMKC
F17 at Oakland
F19 Western Ill.
F21 at Oral Roberts
F26 at Valparaiso
F29 at UMKC
M4 Texas-Pan Am

Missouri-Kansas City
N21 William Penn
N23 at N. Iowa
N27 Wis.-Milwaukee
N30 at Texas-Arlington
D4 Ark.-Little Rock
D8 at Delaware St.
D11 at Md.-Eastern Shore
D16 Bellevue (Neb.)
D19 at St. Louis
D22 SW Missouri St.
D28 at Tulsa
J3 Valparaiso
J6 at Chicago St.
J8 at Western Ill.
J13 at Oral Roberts
J15 Southern Utah
J20 Youngstown St.
J22 Oakland
J27 at Southern Utah
F3 Western Illinois
F5 Chicago St.
F10 at Valparaiso
F12 at IUPUI
F19 Oral Roberts
F24 at Oakland
F26 at Youngstown St.
F29 IUPUI

Oakland
N19 at Michigan
N21 Illinois State
N25-28 Hawaii Pacific Classic
D4 Southern Utah
D7 Bowling Green
D9 Toledo
D11 Western Mich.
D18 at Mich. St.
D20 at Cleveland St.
D27 at Ohio State
J2 at Northwestern
J3 at Loyola
J5 at Colorado
J8 Youngstown St.
J13 at Valparaiso
J15 Chicago State
J20 at Oral Roberts
J22 at UMKC
J27 at IUPUI
J29 at Youngstown St.
F3 Valparaiso
F10 at Sou. Utah
F12 at Western Ill.
F17 IUPUI
F19 at Chicago St.
F21 Western Ill.
F24 UMKC
F26 Oral Roberts

Oral Roberts
N19-20 America's Youth Classic
N22 at Texas-Pan American
N26-27 United Airlines Tip-Off Tr.
D2 Valparaiso
D4 Central Arkansas
D6 at Cal State Northridge
D11 Tulsa
D20 Cal State Northridge
D22 at Nebraska
D29 at Texas Tech
J6 at Western Ill.
J8 at Chicago St.
J13 UMKC
J15 Texas-Pan American
J20 Oakland
J22 Youngstown St.
J29 at Southern Utah
F3 Chicago St.
F5 Western Ill.
F10 at IUPUI
F12 at Valparaiso
F17 at Southern Utah
F19 at UMKC
F21 IUPUI
F24 at Youngstown St.
F26 at Oakland

Southern Utah
N19 Western St.
N22 at Sacramento St.
N24 at BYU
N29 Montana
D2 at Youngstown St.
D4 at Oakland
D9 Idaho St.
D11 at New Mexico
D18 at Weber St.
D21 Boise St.
D29 Carroll College
J1 at Utah
J6 Valparaiso
J8 IUPUI
J15 at UMKC
J20 Western Ill.
J22 Chicago State
J27 UMKC
J29 Oral Roberts
F3 at IUPUI
F5 at Valparaiso
F10 Oakland
F12 Youngstown St.
F17 at Oral Roberts
F24 at Western Ill.
F26 at Chicago St.

Valparaiso
N26-28 Hoop & Quill Classic
D2 at Oral Roberts
D4 at Minnesota
D11 at Houston
D12 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
D29-30 All-College Tournament
J3 at UMKC
J6 at Southern Utah
J10 Belmont
J13 Oakland
J15 at Youngstown St.
J22 Western Ill.
J27 Chicago St.
J29 at IUPUI
F3 at Oakland
F5 at Southern Utah
F7 at Belmont
F10 UMKC
F12 Oral Roberts
F17 at Western Ill.
F19 Youngstown St.
F24 at Chicago St.
F26 IUPUI

Western Illinois
N19 at Illinois
N22 St. Ambrose
N24 at Illinois St.
N27 Cardinal Stritch
D1 Bradley
D3-4 Pizza Hut Classic
D7 at Indiana St.
D9 at Purdue
D11 Eastern Ill.
D20-22 Nike Festival
J3 Chicago St.
J6 Oral Roberts
J8 UMKC
J13 at Youngstown St.
J15 IUPUI
J20 at Southern Utah
J22 at Valparaiso
J27 Youngstown St.
J29 at Chicago St.
F3 at UMKC
F5 at Oral Roberts
F12 Oakland
F17 Valparaiso
F19 at IUPUI
F21 at Oakland
F24 Southern Utah

Youngstown St.
N19 Slippery Rock
N20 at Cincinnati
N23 at Kent
N29 at Western Mich.
D2 Southern Utah
D4 Kent
D11 Niagara
D17 at Montana
D20 Toledo
D22 St. Francis (Pa.)
D29-30 Dr Pepper Classic
J6 at IUPUI
J8 at Oakland
J13 Western Ill.
J15 Valparaiso
J20 at UMKC
J22 at Oral Roberts
J27 at Western Ill.
J29 Oakland
F5 IUPUI
F10 at Chicago St.
F12 at Sou. Utah
F17 Chicago State
F19 at Valparaiso
F24 Oral Roberts
F26 UMKC

Mid-Eastern Athletic

RANK 27

1 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
National Rank: 116

Coach: Cyrus "Cy" Alexander (203-148, 12 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-12. MEAC: 14-4/T1st.
Key players: Mike Wiatre, 6-0 Sr., 15.2 ppg, 4.2 apg; James Jones, 6-5 Sr., 13.1 ppg; Dexter Hall, 6-8 Jr., 6.7 ppg, 8.7 rpg.
Outlook: The Bulldogs are blessed with depth and versatility. S.C. State can become a cut above the rest if it gets consistent, take-charge floor leadership from guards Wiatre and Jones. Keep an eye on 6-9 UTEP transfer Luis Radford, a strong inside rebounder with decent mid-range shooting touch.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Orangeburg, S.C. **Home court:** Smith-Hammond Memorial Center (3,200).

2 NORFOLK STATE
National Rank: 168

Coach: Wil Jones (1st year).
1998-99 record: 15-12. MEAC: 11-7/4th.
Key players: Damian Woolfolk, 6-5 Sr., 23.2 ppg; Neal Roberts, 6-6 Sr., 13.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg; Will Brooks, 6-5 Jr., 10.2 ppg.
Outlook: The Spartans are encouraged by last season's fourth-place finish. For most of the year, they played with purpose even though they weren't eligible to play in the league tournament. This time, they are eligible and figure to create some excitement.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** Echols Arena (7,600).

3 HAMPTON
National Rank: 183

Coach: Steve Merfeld (22-31, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 8-19. MEAC: 8-10/7th.
Key players: Tarvis Williams, 6-8 Jr., 13.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg; Doug Belton, 6-6 Sr., 11.0 ppg, 6.2 rpg; Tommy Adams, 6-3 Soph., 10.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg.
Outlook: The Pirates fell below expectations last season, but it appears they're on track to make a run at S.C. State. Williams changes games with his shot blocking (122 last season), and he's surrounded by a talented group of rookies and transfers, including 6-10 Mohamed Woni (Clemson), point guard Marseiles Brown (Richmond) and highly touted forward Cleveland Davis.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hampton, Va. **Home court:** Convocation Center (7,500).

4 COPPIN STATE
National Rank: 189

Coach: Ron "Fang" Mitchell (241-142, 13 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 15-14. MEAC: 14-4/T1st.
Key players: Jorge Cajigas, 5-10 Sr. 13.9 ppg, 2.8 apg; Kofi Pointer, 6-8 Sr., 5.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg.
Outlook: Coppin's lack of a consistent inside game contributed greatly to its downfall last season, including a loss to Florida A&M in the first round of the conference tournament. This year, Cajigas leads the pack, but he needs help to take the Eagles to a higher level. Keep an eye on Hofstra transfer Joe Brown, a 6-6 swingman, who was one of Philadelphia's premier high school players.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Coppin Center (3,000).

5 NORTH CAROLINA A&T
National Rank: 208

Coach: Chris Hunter (first year).
1998-99 record: 13-15. MEAC: 9-9/6th.
Key players: Marque Carrington, 6-2 Jr., 9.7 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 2.3 apg; Bruce Jenkins, 6-6 Soph., 7.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg; Tarrell Robinson, 6-6 Jr., 4.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg.
Outlook: Coach Roy Thomas resigned unexpectedly last spring, and assistant Hunter was named interim coach for one year. Hunter didn't inherit a bad bunch. The problems the Aggies had last season were mostly mental. If the Aggies can find their groove, they could be tough to handle during the final weeks of the regular season.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Corbett Center (7,600).

6 FLORIDA A&M
National Rank: 239

Coach: Mickey Clayton (33-60, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-19. MEAC: 8-11/8th. Lost to Duke in NCAA East 1st round.
Key players: Brian Johnson, 6-6 Jr., 10.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg; Morris Scott, 6-0 Jr., 8.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg; Kendric Green, 6-6 Jr., 8.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg; Jamaal Rhodes, 6-9 Jr., 5.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg.
Outlook: The Rattlers will have to start anew after emerging as surprise MEAC tournament champions. Clayton has seven new faces. Johnson is ready to go after missing most of last season with injuries. Scott is a skilled assist man and defender.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Gaither Arena (3,365).

7 MD.-EASTERN SHORE
National Rank: 257

Coach: Lonnie Williams (30-52, 3 years; 181-175 overall, 10 years).
1998-99 record: 10-17. MEAC: 7-11/9th.
Key players: Kevin Wallace, 6-6 Sr., 15.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg; Demetric Reese, 6-7 Sr., 14.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg.
Outlook: If the Hawks stay healthy, they may be the league's most dangerous team. Benjamin Surpin and Reese are formidable as a guard tandem. Injuries slowed the team last season. But Williams has stocked up with high quality, including 6-8 juco transfer Sanyika Street and Toronto freshman Chaka Harris.
Last league title: 1974.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Princess Anne, Md. **Home court:** Athletic Center (5,500).

8 MORGAN STATE
National Rank: 293

Coach: Chris Fuller (42-78, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 14-14. MEAC: 12-6/3rd.
Key players: Jimmy Fields, 5-9 Sr., 13.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 5.1 apg; Ronnie Van Hook, 6-2 Sr., 6.0 ppg, 1.4 rpg.
Outlook: The Bears are depleted. All-league forward Curtis King (13.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg) gave notice that he was transferring to Drexel University. That leaves guard Fields as a focal point. Fields, though, can't do it as a solo act. For Morgan to make its presence felt, the freshman class will have to contribute consistently from day one.
Last league title: 1977.
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Hill Field House (4,500).

By Craig T. Greenlee
Greensboro News & Record

All-MEAC

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Morris Scott, Florida A&M	6-0	185	Jr.
G	James Jones, South Carolina St.	6-5	175	Sr.
F	Damian Woolfolk, Norfolk State	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Dexter Hall, South Carolina State	6-8	185	Jr.
F	Tarvis Williams, Hampton	6-8	205	Jr.

Player of the Year
Damian Woolfolk, F, Norfolk State

Newcomer of the Year
Joe Brown, G/F, Coppin State

Honor Roll

Best shooter: Freddie Cole, Bethune-Cookman
Best rebounder: Dexter Hall, South Carolina State
Best playmaker: Tyris Livas, Bethune-Cookman
Best defender: Tarvis Williams, Hampton
Best leaper: Tarvis Williams, Hampton
Most versatile: Kendric Green, Florida A&M
Most flamboyant: Ali Abdullah, Howard
Best NBA prospect: Damian Woolfolk, Norfolk State

9 BETHUNE-COOKMAN
National Rank: 294

Coach: Horace Broadnax (12-42, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. MEAC: 10-9/5th.
Key players: Freddie Cole, 6-3 Sr., 17.7 ppg; Tyris Livas, 5-10 Sr., 6.3 apg; Delvin Thomas, 6-7 Sr., 9.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg.
Outlook: The MEAC's most improved team is eager to serve notice that last season's middle-of-the-pack finish was no fluke. The Wildcats play good defense, but more important, they play with confidence. That's a major turnaround from two seasons ago, when they finished 1-26.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla. **Home court:** Moore Gym (3,000).

10 DELAWARE STATE
National Rank: 300

Coach: Tony Sheals (1st year)
1998-99 record: 8-19. MEAC: 5-13/10th.
Key players: Stefan Malliet, 5-11 Sr., 16.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.9 apg; Demond Wilkerson, 6-3 Sr., 7.9 ppg, 3.6 rpg.
Outlook: Delaware State hasn't had a winning season since 1990-91, and there's no reason that will change this season. That's not a reflection on Sheals, who was coach at Bethune-Cookman in the mid '90s. With Sheals now on board, the Hornets will play tougher and smarter.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Dover, Del. **Home court:** Memorial Hall (3,000).

11 HOWARD
National Rank: 307

Coach: Kirk Saulny (2-25, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 2-25. MEAC: 2-16/11th.
Key players: Ali Abdullah, 5-8 Jr., 12.5 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 4.5 apg; Jermaine Holliway, 6-5 Sr., 8.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg.
Outlook: The Bison will continue to struggle but should be a better team overall. Holliway moves from power forward to small forward, and guard Tony Michelle could emerge as the team's lethal weapon.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Burr Gym (2,500).

Mid-Eastern Athletic Schedules

Bethune-Cookman
N19 Florida A&M
N24 Florida Atlantic
N28 at Siena
N30 at Miami (Fla.)
D8 at Georgetown
D11 at Florida
D28 at Illinois
J1 Md.-Eastern Shore
J8 Coppin St.
J10 Morgan St.
J15 at S.C. State
J17 at North Carolina A&T
J22 Howard
J24 at Delaware St.
J29 Hampton
J31 Norfolk St.
F3 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F5 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F12 at Coppin St.
F14 at Morgan St.
F19 S.C. State
F21 North Carolina A&T
F26 at Florida A&M
M2 at Hampton
M4 at Norfolk St.

Coppin State
N19-20 Battle of Baltimore Classic
N23 at Iona
N27 at George Mason
N29 at Connecticut
D1 at St. John's
D4 at S.C. State
D6 at North Carolina A&T
D11 at Purdue
D13 at Auburn
D18 at Morgan St.
D29 at Marquette
J3 Delaware State
J8 at Bethune-Cookman
J10 at Florida A&M
J13 Howard
J17 Md.-Eastern Shore
J22 Hampton
J24 at Norfolk St.
J29 S.C. State
J31 North Carolina A&T
F5 at Howard
F7 at Delaware St.
F12 Bethune-Cookman
F14 Florida A&M
F21 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F26 Morgan State

Delaware State
N19-20 Pepsi-Marist Classic
N23 at Drake
N26 at Virginia Commonwealth
D1 Md.-Eastern Shore
D4 Delaware
D8 UMKC
D18 at Tulsa
D30 at Duquesne
J3 at Coppin State
J8 S.C. State
J10 North Carolina A&T
J15 at Norfolk St.
J17 at Hampton
J19 SUNY-Albany
J22 at Florida A&M
J24 Bethune-Cookman
J29 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F2 Howard
F5 Morgan St.
F7 Coppin State
F12 at S.C. State
F14 at North Carolina A&T
F19 Norfolk State
F21 Hampton
F26 at Howard
M3 at Morgan St.

Florida A&M
N20 at Bethune-Cookman
N23 Troy St.
N27 at Jacksonville St.
N29 at SE Louisiana
D4 at Florida
D11 at Ohio St.
D21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic
D28-29 Capital City Classic
J3 Md.-Eastern Shore
J8 Morgan St.
J10 Coppin St.
J15 at North Carolina A&T
J17 at S.C. State
J22 Delaware St.
J24 at Howard
J29 Norfolk St.
J31 Hampton
F5 at Georgia Tech
F7 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F12 at Morgan St.
F14 at Coppin St.
F19 North Carolina A&T
F21 S.C. State
F26 Bethune-Cookman
M2 at Norfolk St.
M4 at Hampton

Hampton
N22 Eastern Mich.
D4 at William & Mary
D8 Norfolk St.
D10 Virginia
D20 at Marquette
D22 at Chicago St.
D28-29 College of Charleston Cl.
J3 North Carolina A&T
J5 S.C. State
J7 Radford
J10 at Md.-Eastern Shore
J15 Howard
J17 Delaware St.
J22 at Coppin St.
J24 Morgan St.
J29 at Bethune Cookman
J31 at Florida A&M
F5 at S.C. State
F7 at North Carolina A&T
F10 at Duquesne
F14 Md.-Eastern Shore
F19 at Howard
F21 at Delaware St.
F26 at Norfolk St.
M2 Bethune Cookman
M4 Florida A&M

Howard
N20 at DePaul
D1 Lafayette College
D3-4 Spartan Classic
D6 at Georgetown
D21 at Delaware
D27 at Louisiana St.
D29 at Tulane
J2 at North Carolina
J8 North Carolina A&T
J10 S.C. State
J13 at Coppin St.
J15 at Hampton
J17 at Norfolk St.
J22 at Bethune-Cookman
J24 Florida A&M
J26 at Morgan St.
J31 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F2 at Delaware St.
F5 Coppin St.
F7 Morgan St.
F12 at North Carolina A&T
F15 at S.C. State
F19 Hampton
F21 Norfolk St.
F24 Md.-Eastern Shore
F26 Delaware St.

Md.-Eastern Shore
N20 at Xavier
N23 Albany St.
N27 at Wake Forest
D1 at Delaware St.
D3-4 Pizza Hut Classic
D11 UMKC
D19 at Niagara
D28 at Iowa St.
J1 at Bethune Cookman
J3 at Florida A&M
J8 Norfolk St.
J10 Hampton
J12 Albany St.
J15 at Morgan St.
J17 at Coppin St.
J22 North Carolina A&T
J24 at S.C. State
J29 Delaware St.
J31 Howard
F5 Bethune-Cookman
F7 Florida A&M
F12 at Norfolk St.
F14 at Hampton
F19 Morgan St.
F21 Coppin St.
M1 at Howard

Morgan State
N19 at Georgetown
N23 Towson
N27 at Missouri
D1 at UCLA
D4 at Arizona St.
D11 Navy
D12 Drexel
D18 at Coppin St.
D21 at Evansville
J5 at S. Florida
J8 at Florida A&M
J10 at Bethune-Cookman
J15 Md.-Eastern Shore
J19 Iona
J22 at Norfolk St.
J24 at Hampton
J26 Howard
J29 North Carolina A&T
J31 S.C. State
F5 at Delaware St.
F7 at Howard
F12 Florida A&M
F14 Bethune-Cookman
F19 at Md.-Eastern Shore
F26 at Coppin St.
F28 at S.C. State
M1 at North Carolina A&T
M3 Delaware St.

Norfolk State
N19 at Ill.-Chicago
N23 at Florida St.
N27 at New Orleans
D1 at Pittsburgh
D4 at Elon
D6 at UNC-Greensboro
D8 at Hampton
D11 Florida A&M
D13 Bethune-Cookman
D21-22 Coors Light Classic
J1 North Carolina A&T
J3 S.C. State
J8 at Md.-Eastern Shore
J11 at South Alabama
J15 Delaware St.
J17 Howard
J22 at Morgan St.
J24 Coppin St.
J29 at Florida A&M
J31 at Bethune-Cookman
F5 at North Carolina A&T
F7 at S.C. State
F12 Md.-Eastern Shore
F19 at Delaware St.
F21 at Howard
F26 Hampton

North Carolina A&T
N20 at American
N24 at Baylor
N27 at Texas A&M
D6 Coppin St.
D8 North Carolina Central
D19 at Duke
D30 at Virginia Commonwealth
J1 at Norfolk St.
J3 at Hampton
J8 at Howard
J10 at Delaware St.
J13 at Elon
J15 Florida A&M
J17 Bethune-Cookman
J19 UNC-Greensboro
J22 at Md.-Eastern Shore
J26 S.C. State
J29 at Morgan St.
J31 at Coppin St.
F5 Norfolk St.
F7 Hampton
F12 Howard
F14 Delaware St.
F19 at Florida A&M
F21 at Bethune-Cookman
F26 at S.C. State
M1 Morgan St.

South Carolina State
N26-28 SoCon Holiday Tournament
D1at Miss. State
D4 Coppin State
D11 at Clemson
D14 at Air Force
D16 at San Diego St.
D18 at BYU
D20 Charleston Southern
D22 at Villanova
D28 Morgan State
D30 at South Carolina
J3 at Norfolk St.
J5 at Hampton
J8 at Delaware St.
J10 at Howard
J15 Bethune-Cookman
J17 Florida A&M
J24 Md.-Eastern Shore
J26 at North Carolina A&T
J29 at Coppin St.
J31 at Morgan St.
F5 Hampton
F7 Norfolk State
F12 Delaware St.
F14 Howard
F19 at Bethune-Cookman
F21at Florida A&M
F26 North Carolina A&T

Northeast

RANK 26

1 CENT. CONNECTICUT STATE
National Rank: 102

Coach: Howie Dickenman (31-54, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 19-13. Northeast: 11-9/4th.
Key players: Rick Mickens, G, 6-4/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 3.5 apg); Corsley Edwards, C, 6-9/So. (12.7 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.7 bpg); Dean Walker, F, 6-5/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.3 apg); Victor Payne, F, 6-4/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 57.6 FG%); Tomas Brookins, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 2.7 apg.).
Outlook: The Blue Devils reached the NEC tournament championship game last year and return four starters as they bid for their first NCAA Division I Tournament berth in 65 years of basketball. Corsley Edwards, who was sick for about a month last season, is a tower of strength inside. Last season, he shattered a backboard and shorted out a shot clock with ferocious dunks. John Tice, the leading scorer at Fairfield two years ago when he averaged 11.9 ppg as a freshman, may be the force that sends the Blue Devils to the Big Dance.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: New Britain, Conn. **Home court:** Detrick Gym (4,500).

2 MOUNT ST. MARY'S
National Rank: 139

Coach: Jim Phelan (800-443, 45 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).

By Tony Graham
Asbury Park (N.J.) Press

All-Northeast

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Gregory Harris, Mount St. Mary's	6-3	195	Sr.
G	Gene Nabors, Robert Morris	6-2	190	Sr.
F	Richie Parker, Long Island	6-5	200	Sr.
F	Corsley Edwards, Central Conn.	6-8	275	So.
F	Melvin Whitaker, Mount St. Mary's	6-10	230	So.

Player of the Year
Gregory Harris, G, Mount St. Mary's

Newcomer of the Year
John Tice, F, Central Connecticut State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Tanel Tein, St. Francis (N.Y.)
Best rebounder: Corsley Edwards, Central Conn. St.
Best playmaker: Greg Nunn, St. Francis (N.Y.)
Best defender: Rick Mickens, Central Connecticut St.
Best leaper: Virgil Smiley, Long Island
Most versatile: Nate Pondexter, Quinnipiac
Most flamboyant: Richie Parker, Long Island
Best NBA prospect: Melvin Whitaker, Mount St. Mary's

More on the Northeast at sportingnews.com/cbasketball AOL keyword: TSN

1998-99 record: 15-15. Northeast: 10-10/T5th. Lost to Michigan State in NCAA Midwest 1st round.
Key players: Gregory Harris, G, 6-3/Sr. (17.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 4.4 apg); Melvin Whitaker, C/F, 6-10/So. (11.0 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.9 bpg); Konata Springer, C, 6-10/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg); Terrence Wilson, F, 6-8/So. (6.9 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 1.0 apg); Aaron Herbert, G, 5-10/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 1.9 apg); Robert Balgac, F/G, 6-8/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg).
Outlook: After losing three straight home games at the end of the regular season, The Mount roared from the NEC tournament's sixth seed to win last year's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. Led by Gregory Harris and Melvin Whitaker, The Mount returns four starters. Whitaker should be more formidable after sitting out the first eight games of last season, and Harris has NEC Player of the Year potential. Team could use more depth and has several freshmen in the 6-7, 6-8 range hoping to make an impact. Definitely one of the teams to beat.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Emmitsburg, Md. **Home court:** Knott Arena (3,196).

3 ROBERT MORRIS
National Rank: 181

Coach: Jim Boone (27-54, 3 years; 255-125 overall, 13 years).
1998-99 record: 15-12. Northeast: 12-8/3rd.
Key players: Gene Nabors, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 4.6 apg); Kevin Covert, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.9 apg); Brandon Welsch, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.7 apg); Naron Jackson, F, 6-5/Jr. (3.0 ppg, 2.2 rpg); Steve Pettyjohn, F, 6-8/So. (4.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg); Matt Smith, C,
6-9/So. (3.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg).
Outlook: After several years of remaking the roster, Jim Boone brought the Colonials their first above-.500 finish since 1992, when they made their last NCAA Tournament trip. Gene Nabors, who transferred from LSU, and Kevin Covert, who overcame an array of knee injuries after coming aboard from Akron, constitute perhaps the NEC's top backcourt. Matt Smith developed rapidly last year with increased playing time. Ricky Richburg, a 5-10 sophomore point guard who sat out last year, should add depth, as should 6-5 freshman Lindbergh Chapman. After nearly a quiet decade, the Colonials are making noise again.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Coraopolis, Pa. **Home court:** Sewall Center (3,056).

4 ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.)
National Rank: 184

Coach: Ron Ganulin (91-129, 8 years; 118-152 overall,
10 years).
1998-99 record: 20-8. Northeast: 16-4/2nd.)
Key players: Richy Dominguez, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.2 apg); Angel Santana, F, 6-7/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.4 apg.); Henry LaLane, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.1 apg); Heberth Reyes, C, 6-11/Jr. (6.9 ppg, 6.5 rpg); Greg Nunn, G, 5-10/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 5.6 apg); Tanel Tein, G, 6-5/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.6 apg).
Outlook: The Terriers return four starters and nine players from the team that battled UMBC to the wire for last year's regular-season championship and bowed by two points to Mount St. Mary's in the NEC tournament semifinals. Ray Minlend (24.3 ppg) is a big loss, but overall balance and experience, the emergence of Tanel Tein as more of a threat, and a potent long-range attack that led the NEC in 3's last season (232) should mean another run at the NEC title. Look for a return by Richy Dominguez to his 1997-98 NEC Newcomer of the Year form and a more effective inside game from Heberth Reyes and 6-8 sophomore newcomer Corey Underwood.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. **Home court:** Pope P.E. Center (1,250).

5 MD.-BALTIMORE COUNTY
National Rank: 186

Coach: Tom Sullivan (43-67, 4 years; 197-192 overall, 14 years).
1998-99 record: 19-9. Northeast: 17-3/1st.
Key players: Terence Ward, G, 6-1/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.8 apg); Kennedy Okafor, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.2 apg); Nick Grella, C, 6-8/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg); Isaac Green, F, 6-6/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.7 apg); Tim Hyland, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 1.4 rpg, 2.0 apg); Brad Martin, F, 6-5/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.1 apg).
Outlook: After shocking the NEC with last year's regular-season first-place finish in its league debut, UMBC returns seven of its top nine scorers. An important loss is sophomore forward Rich Giddens (6.2 ppg), who will sit out this season for personal reasons. The Retrievers thrive on their scoring defense (63.6 ppg last season) and a controlled, balanced attack coordinated by Terence Ward. But after sneaking up on most teams last year, they may find it tough to duplicate that success.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** UMBC Fieldhouse (4,024).

6 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON
National Rank: 227

Coach: Tom Green (272-190, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-16. Northeast: 9-11/7th.
Key players: Chris Ekwe, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg); Lamont Perry, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 3.3 apg); Jonas Sinding, C, 6-10/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.3 bpg); Wim Van der Keere, G, 6-7/So. (5.4 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 0-7 apg); Baldur Olafsson, C, 6-10/So. (3.5 ppg, 1.2 rpg); Keith Martin, F,
6-6/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The team's size and dangerous long-range shooting were negated by 19.8 turnovers a game, which led to a mid-season nose dive and an eight-game losing streak. Tom Green is hoping a late surge of five straight regular-season wins is a prelude of things to come. With a year under their belt, Lamont Perry and Chris Ekwe could emerge as premier NEC performers, with Perry at the point holding the key to the season. More scoring is needed from physically imposing centers Jonas Sinding and Baldur Olafsson. If the Knights jell, they will be a team to be reckoned with.
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Teaneck, N.J. **Home court:** Rothman Center (5,000).

7 LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
National Rank: 242

Coach: Ray Martin (10-17, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 10-17. Northeast: 10-10/T5th.
Key players: Richie Parker, F, 6-5/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.8 apg); Virgil Smiley, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Jonathan Frank, G, 6-5/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 2.2 rpg); Ray Rivera, G, 6-4/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 3.1 rpg); Cheikh Fall, C, 6-10/Sr. (2.9 rpg, 4.4 rpg, 2.1 bpg); Ja Ja Bey, F, 6-6/Fr.
Outlook: With the departure of guards Karee Anderson and Issiah Francis and 6-10 center John Morgenstern, the Blackbirds will lean heavily on Parker and overall team athleticism, and hope some role players step to the fore. A new backcourt should feature freshman Antawn Dobie at point guard with junior-college transfer Keith Leslie. Ray Rivera is a 3-point (34 percent) threat. LIU shot 57 percent from the line last year, something it must change this fall to have success. The Blackbirds' fortunes could go either way.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Brooklyn, N.Y. **Home court:** Schwartz Athletic Center (1,300).

8 QUINNIPIAC
National Rank: 258

Coach: Joe DeSantis (18-61, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 9-18. Northeast: 6-14/10th.
Key players: Nate Pondexter, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 5.3 apg); Bill Romano, F, 6-8 So. (12.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg); Jared Grasso, G, 6-3/So. (9.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 4.0 apg); Ivoree Stanley, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Jamar Fields, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.9 apg); Stevie Patrick, G, 6-5/Fr.
Outlook: The Braves jumped from Division II last year to a 4-2 start before losing streaks of six and seven games torpedoed the season. Nate Pondexter returns with three other starters, which bodes well for some improvement and a run at the league's eighth and final NEC tournament bid. With a year of experience under their belt, Bill Romano and Jared Grasso should boost last year's numbers. Team still lacks size in a league growing bigger.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hamden, Conn. **Home court:** Burt Kahn Court-Athletic Center (1,500).

9 ST. FRANCIS (PA.)
National Rank: 264

Coach: Bobby Jones (first year).
1998-99 record: 9-17. Northeast: 7-13/T8th.
Key players: Tom Fox, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Jamal Ragland, G, 5-10/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 5.0 apg); Rob Krimmel, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 1.8 apg); Melvin Scott, F, 6-5/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 6.7 rpg); John McLean, G,
6-2/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.3 apg); Pete Fox, F, 6-5/So. (3.7 ppg, 1.4 rpg).
Outlook: On January 21, St. Francis won at Fairleigh Dickinson, 84-73, and appeared poised for a high regular-season finish. In an amazing development, the Red Flash would not win again. A season-ending nine-game losing streak cost the school an NEC tournament bid and led to the resignation of coach Tom McConnell. Bobby Jones, an assistant at Minnesota and Pittsburgh, finds the cupboard far from bare with four returning starters—though leading scorer forward Sam Sutton (13.4 ppg) left school. The Red Flash will count on Tom Fox and their returning nucleus, plus 6-0 freshman point guard Dan Swoger, to make an impact.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Loretto, Pa. **Home court:** Stokes Athletic Center (3,500).

10 SACRED HEART
National Rank: 299

Coach: Dave Bike (374-245, 21 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. New England Collegiate Conference (Division II): 10-8/T3rd.
Key players: Kurt Reis, G, 6-0/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 4.6 apg); Andrew Hunter, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.8 ppg., 4.9 rpg., 1.1 apg); Marijus Kovaliukas, F, 6-7/Jr.

(transfer/Central Connecticut State); Mindaugas Lydeka, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.0 apg); Teron McFadden, G, 6-4/So. (transfer/Appalachian State); Colin Watson, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Outlook: The Pioneers are making their Division I debut and return three starters. Including junior-college and Division I transfers, six new faces will be on hand for the transition, headed by Colin Watson and including his 6-6 junior-college teammate last year, Deveren Johnson. Marijus Kovaliukas is another player who figures to help right away. The Pioneers went 1-8 vs. Division I teams last year, beating Monmouth.
Last league title: 1989 (NECC, Division II).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** William H. Pitt Center (2,100).

11 WAGNER
National Rank: 302

Coach: Dereck Whittenburg (first year).
1998-99 record: 9-18. Northeast: 7-13/T8th.
Key players: Lesli Myrthil, F, 6-7/So. (5.3 ppg, 2.1 rpg); Derrick Emery, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Alvin Askew, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Hassan Wilkerson, G, 6-4/So. (transfer/Howard); Jermaine Hall, G, 6-4/Fr.; Solomon Edwards G, 6-3/Fr.
Outlook: Dereck Whittenburg, an assistant the last five years at Georgia Tech, takes over a program looking for its first winning season since 1994. It probably won't happen this year despite a massive roster overhaul that features eight newcomers, including five freshmen. They join four returnees, including Lesli Myrthil, who shot 35.3 percent from three-point range before his season ended with a broken foot. The Seahawks plan to scrap their post-oriented attack and parlay added athleticism into a more up-tempo game.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Staten Island, N.Y. **Home court:** Spiro Sports Center (2,500).

12 MONMOUTH
National Rank: 304

Coach: Dave Calloway (8-31, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 5-21. Northeast: 5-13/11th.
Key players: Quinn Hayes, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.8 apg); Steve Bridgemohan, F, 6-8/So. (4.0 ppg, 3.1 rpg); Russell Anderson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Raheem Carter, G, 6-3/So. (3.8 ppg, 1.3 rpg, 2.0 apg); Sean Collins, G, 6-2/Sr. (3.0 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1.5 apg); Kevin Owens 6-10/Fr. (RS).
Outlook: What once was one of the NEC's elite programs is now a mess. Optimism from winning five of seven to end last season was dashed with the transfers of All-NEC Newcomer team members Alpha Bangura (to St. John's) and Andre Williams (to Cleveland State). Kevin Owens, junior-college point guard Rahsaan Johnson and East Tennessee State transfer Dan Sterbenz (who will sit out this year) may offer hope for the distant future.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: West Long Branch, N.J. **Home court:** Boylan Gym (2,500).

Northeast Schedules

Central Connecticut State
N19-20 Mohegan Sun Classic
N23 at La Salle
D2 Fordham
D3 Quinnipiac
D11 Fairfield
D18 at New Hampshire
D21 at Providence
D28 Air Force
J8 Sacred Heart
J10 Wagner
J13 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J15 at Long Island
J22 Robert Morris
J24 St. Francis (Pa.)
J27 at Quinnipiac
J29 at Fairleigh Dickinson
J31 at Monmouth
F2 Mount St. Mary's
F5 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F10 Monmouth
F12 Fairleigh Dickinson
F17 at Robert Morris
F19 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F22 Quinnipiac
F24 at Wagner
F26 at Sacred Heart

Fairleigh Dickinson
N22 at Maryland
N27 Coastal Carolina
N29 at Villanova
D4 at Drexel
D7 Bloomfield
D11 at Wis.-Milwaukee
D19 Manhattan
D30 Rider
J2 Buffalo
J8 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J10 Mount St. Mary's
J15 at Sacred Heart
J17 at Wagner
J19 at Monmouth
J22 Long Island
J24 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J29 Central Conn. St.
J31 Quinnipiac
F3 Robert Morris
F5 St. Francis (Pa.)
F10 at Quinnipiac
F12 at Central Conn. St.
F17 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F19 ay Long Island
F22 Monmouth
F24 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F26 at Mount St. Mary's

Long Island
N26 at Tennessee
N30 at Towson
D4 at Fordham
D6 at Colgate
D27 at Providence
D29-30 Stony Brook Tournament
J8 at Robert Morris
J10 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J15 Central Conn. St.
J17 Quinnipiac
J19 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J22 at Fairleigh Dickinson
J24 Monmouth
J29 at Wagner
J31 Sacred Heart
F3 at Sacred Heart
F5 Wagner
F10 at Mount St. Mary's
F12 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F17 at Monmouth
F19 Fairleigh Dickinson
F22 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F24 St. Francis (Pa.)
F26 Robert Morris

Maryland-Baltimore County
N19-21 Battle of Baltimore Classic
D1 at Dayton
D4 at Rutgers
D8 Washington (Md)
D11 Drexel
D12 Navy
D18 at Towson
D30 at Maryland
J3 at Navy
J8 at Fairleigh Dickinson
J10 at Monmouth
J15 Robert Morris
J17 St. Francis (Pa.)
J19 at Mount St. Mary's
J22 Sacred Heart
J24 Wagner
J29 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J31at Robert Morris
F3 at Quinnipiac
F5 at Central Conn. St.
F10 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F12 Long Island
F15 Mount St. Mary's
F17 at Wagner
F19 at Sacred Heart
F24 Fairleigh Dickinson
F26 Monmouth

Monmouth
N20 at Princeton
N23 at Miami
N27 Drexel
D3-4 Ameritas Classic
D6 at DePaul
D11 SUNY-Albany
D18 Rider
D22 at St. Peter's
J8 Mount St. Mary's
J10 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J15 at Wagner
J17 at Sacred Heart
J19 Fairleigh Dickinson
J22 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J24 at Long Island
J29 Quinnipiac
J31 Central Conn. St.
F3 St. Francis (Pa.)
F5 Robert Morris
F10 at Central Conn. St.
F12 at Quinnipiac
F17 Long Island
F19 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F22 at Fairleigh Dickinson
F24 at Mount St. Mary's
F26 at Md.-Baltimore Co.

Mount St. Mary's
N20 at La Salle
N26 at Dayton
N28 at Butler
D4 Bucknell
D6 at Wyoming
D18 at Loyola (Md)
D29-30 All-College Tournament
J4 at East Carolina
J8 at Monmouth
J10 at Fairleigh Dickinson
J15 St. Francis (Pa.)
J17 Robert Morris
J19 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J22 Wagner
J24 Sacred Heart
J29 at Robert Morris
J31 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F3 at Central Conn. St.
F5 at Quinnipiac
F10 Long Island
F12 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F15 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F17 at Sacred Heart
F19 at Wagner
F24 Monmouth
F26 Fairleigh Dickinson

Quinnipiac
N19 at Seton Hall
N23 Westfield St.
N29 Columbia
D2 Yale
D3 Central Conn. St.
D8 Sacred Heart
D11 Dartmouth
D29 at Miami (Fla.)
J4 at Army
J8 at Wagner
J11 Brown
J15 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J17 at Long Island
J22 St. Francis (Pa.)
J24 Robert Morris
J27 Central Conn. St.
J29 at Monmouth
J31 at Fairleigh Dickinson
F3 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F5 Mount St. Mary's
F10 Fairleigh Dickinson
F12 Monmouth
F17 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F19 at Robert Morris
F22 at Central Conn. St.
F24 at Sacred Heart
F26 Wagner

Robert Morris
N19 East Carolina
N23 at Bucknell
N27 at West Virginia
N30 Carnegie Mellon
D8 at Pittsburgh
D10-11 Coca-Cola Classic
D20 Appalachian St.
D30 at Brown
J5 St. Francis (Pa.)
J8 Long Island
J10 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J15 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J17 at Mount St. Mary's
J22 at Central Conn. St.
J24 at Quinnipiac
J29 Mount St. Mary's
J31 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F3 at Fairleigh Dickinson
F5 at Monmouth
F10 Wagner
F12 Sacred Heart
F15 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F17 Central Conn. St.
F19 Quinnipiac
F24 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F26 at Long Island

Sacred Heart
N19 Hartford
N23 at Rider
N27 Cornell
D4 Maine
D8 at Quinnipiac
D11 Cleveland St.
D21 Harvard
D29 at St. John's
J2 at Connecticut
J6 at Holy Cross
J8 at Central Conn. St.
J10 at Cleveland St.
J15 Fairleigh Dickinson
J17 Monmouth
J19 Wagner
J22 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J24 at Mount St. Mary's
J29 St. Francis (Pa.)
J31 at Long Island
F3 Long Island
F5 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F10 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F12 at Robert Morris
F17 Mount St. Mary's
F19 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F22 at Wagner
F24 Quinnipiac
F26 Central Conn. St.

St. Francis (N.Y.)
N20-21 Binghamton Tour.
N27 Queens
D8 at St. John's
D11 at Boston Coll.
D14 at Florida International
D20 Yale
D23 Iona
D28 at Cal State Northridge
J8 at St. Francis (Pa.)
J10 at Robert Morris
J13 Central Conn. St.
J15 Quinnipiac
J19 at Long Island
J22 Monmouth
J24 Fairleigh Dickinson
J29 at Sacred Heart
J31 Wagner
F3 at Wagner
F5 Sacred Heart
F10 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F12 at Mount St. Mary's
F17 at Fairleigh Dickinson
F19 at Monmouth
F22 Long Island
F24 Robert Morris
F26 St. Francis (Pa.)

St. Francis (Pa.)
N19 Morehead St.
N21 at Notre Dame
N24 at Pittsburgh
N27 at Loyola (Md.)
D1 Bucknell
D4 at Ill.-Chicago
D9 Niagara
D11 Loyola (Md.)
D22 at Youngstown St.
J5 at Robert Morris
J8 St. Francis (N.Y.)
J10 Long Island
J15 at Mount St. Mary's
J17 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J22 at Quinnipiac
J24 at Central Conn. St.
J29 Md.-Baltimore Co.
J31 Mount St. Mary's
F3 at Monmouth
F5 at Fairleigh Dickinson
F10 Sacred Heart
F12 Wagner
F15 Robert Morris
F17 Quinnipiac
F19 Central Conn. St.
F24 at Long Island
F26 at St. Francis (N.Y.)

Wagner
N23 Staten Island
N27 Colgate
N30 at Lehigh
D4 at American
D18 at St. Peter's
D21-22 Coors Light Classic
D29 at Seton Hall
J3 SUNY-Albany
J8 Quinnipiac
J10 at Central Conn. St.
J15 Monmouth
J17 Fairleigh Dickinson
J19 at Sacred Heart
J22 at Mount St. Mary's
J24 at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J29 Long Island
J31 at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F3 St. Francis (N.Y.)
F5 at Long Island
F10 at Robert Morris
F12 at St. Francis (Pa.)
F17 Md.-Baltimore Co.
F19 Mount St. Mary's
F22 Sacred Heart
F24 Central Conn. St.
F26 at Quinnipiac

Patriot

RANK 31

1 LAFAYETTE
National Rank: 125

Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (59-54, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 22-8. Patriot: 10-2/1st. Lost to Miami in NCAA East 1st round.
Key players: Frank Barr, C, 6-11/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 51.5 FG%); Tim Bieg, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.3, ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.9 apg); Stefan Ciosici, C, 6-11/Sr. (medical redshirt); Brian Ehlers, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 2.8 apg, 49.3 FG%, 39.0 3pt%, 82.8 FT%, 31.0 mpg); Tyson Whitfield, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg).
Outlook: No team in Patriot history has had two Players of the Year on its roster—until this season's Lafayette club. Ciosici, who sat out last year with a knee injury, took the honor in 1997-98, and Ehlers earned it in '98-99. That means Leopards opponents are in big trouble. Ehlers can score from just about anywhere, and Ciosici is a major force inside. Toss in strong complementary parts such as sharpshooting wing Whitfield, slick point guard Bieg, backup pivot Barr and promising sophomore guard Brian Burke, and Lafayette is a prohibitive favorite.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Easton, Pa. **Home court:** Kirby Sports Center (3,500).

2 NAVY
National Rank: 182

Coach: Don DeVoe (119-80, 7 years; 447-308 overall, 26 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 20-7. Patriot: 9-3/T2nd.
Key players: Jehiel Lewis, G, 6-3/Soph. (4.8 ppg, 1.9 rpg); Sitapha Savane, C, 6-8/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 55.8 FG%, 29.4 mpg); Reggie Skipworth, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.1 apg); Chris Williams, F, 6-4/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.0 spg, 48.2 FG%, 40.7 3PT%).
Outlook: Many thought the Middies would assume the top spot last year, once Lafayette lost Ciosici to a knee injury. But Navy fell apart against lowly Lehigh in the Patriot tournament's first round. It has plenty of returns for another run at the crown, most notably frontcourt standout Savane and versatile guard Williams. Skipworth is a steady point man, although he will have to cut back on the turnovers, and Lewis can handle the other guard spot if Williams moves up front. Neither is a particularly great long-range shooter, a problem that plagues the Middies. This is a good team that needs some young players to develop in secondary roles for Navy to supplant the deep Leopards.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Annapolis, Md. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (5,710).

3 BUCKNELL
National Rank: 209

Coach: Pat Flannery (77-63, 5 years; 172-119 overall, 11 years).
1998-99 record: 16-13. Patriot: 9-3/T2nd.
Key players: Dan Bowen, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 56.9 FG%); Dyrika Cameron, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 76.5 FT%); Valter Karavanic, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Brian Muckle, G, 6-6/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.2 apg); Jake Ramage, G, 6-4/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 43.4 FG%, 38.2 3PT%, 80.8 FT%, 23.9 mpg).
Outlook: The Bison have the experience to win the Patriot League title with four starters back. But the question is whether Bucknell can get it done in the league tournament. Last year, Flannery's team lost to Lafayette in the final. A repeat performance—and beyond—is possible with some outside shooting from guards Ramage and Bryan Bailey. Bailey, a former walk-on, will compete with highly touted freshman Chris Zimmerman for the point guard spot. There is good news up front, as all-league honorees Karavanic and Bowen are back, and senior reserve Cameron is a solid power replacement. Watch for freshman Brian Werner, who put up some big numbers as a prep star.
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Lewisburg, Pa. **Home court:** Davis Gym (2,300).

4 HOLY CROSS
National Rank: 245

Coach: Ralph Willard (first year; 144-124 overall, 9 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 7-20. Patriot: 3-9/6th.
Key players: Jared Curry, F, 6-5/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 31.1 mpg); Juan Pegues, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 30.3 mpg); Ryan Serravalle, G, 6-0/Soph. (11.6 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 37.0 3pt%, 76.9 FT%, 33.0 mpg); Patrick Whearty, C, 6-9/Soph. (8.5 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 46.2 FG%).
Outlook: The Crusaders return just about everybody from last year's team, but they shouldn't be considered a title darkhorse—they were 7-20 last season. So Holy Cross will have to settle for gradual progress, the kind that can be made by a team still in its formative years. Last year's four top scorers return, and none is a senior. Gone, however, is the team's best ball-handler, John Hightower, and new coach Willard must find a replacement. It could be sophomore Serravalle, last year's top scorer. Add junior forward Pegues, who is sturdy on the wing, and tough sophomore center Whearty, and you have a good nucleus.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Worcester, Mass. **Home court:** Hart Center (3,600).

5 COLGATE
National Rank: 256

Coach: Emmett Davis (14-14, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 14-14. Patriot: 7-5/4th.
Key players: Pat Campolieta, F, 6-6/Soph. (13.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.7 apg, 48.1 FG%); LaMarr Datcher, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 1.9 rpg); Pat Diamond, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%); Jordan Harris, F, 6-5/So. (7.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.5 apg, 54.5 FG%, 60.2 FT%, 23.6 mpg).
Outlook: The Red Raiders return a load of frontcourt experience, most notably sophomore forward Campolieta (last year's leading scorer), swingman Harris and power player Diamond. But Colgate is painfully thin where it counts—the backcourt—thanks to the graduations of point guard Mike Tilley and shooter Chester Felts. Second-year coach Davis, who confounded experts by posting a 7-5 league mark last year, will be hard-pressed to fashion a contender out of a team that could start a freshman point guard (Dave Hardy or Jermaine Ballard) and off-guard (Tim Sullivan).
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Hamilton, N.Y. **Home court:** Cotterell Court (3,100).

By Michael Bradley
Freelance writer based in Philadelphia

All-Patriot

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Brian Ehlers, Lafayette	6-4	195	Sr.
G	Chris Williams, Navy	6-4	210	Jr.
C	Stefan Ciosici, Lafayette	6-11	260	Sr.
F	Sitapha Savane, Navy	6-8	227	Sr.
F	Valter Karavanic, Bucknell	6-7	220	Jr.

Player of the Year
Stefan Ciosici, C, Lafayette

Newcomer of the Year
Chris Zimmerman, G, Bucknell

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Chris Spatola, Army
Best rebounder: Sitapha Savane, Navy
Best playmaker: Steve Aylsworth, Lehigh
Best defender: Chris Williams, Navy
Best leaper: Tyson Whitfield, Lafayette
Most versatile: Brian Ehlers, Lafayette
Most flamboyant: Tyson Whitfield, Lafayette
Best NBA prospect: Stefan Ciosici, Lafayette

6 LEHIGH
National Rank: 292

Coach: Sal Mentesana (17-70, 3 years; 152-171 overall, 12 years).
1998-99 record: 6-27. Patriot: 0-12/7th.
Key players: Steve Aylsworth, G, 5-10/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 3.8 apg); Pete Delea, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 59.0 FG%); Jared Hess, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 82.3 FT%); Fido Willybiro, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 5.8 rpg).
Outlook: Lehigh returns four starters and should be healthier than last year's club, which had just three players appear in all 28 games last year. Leading the way is senior swingman Jared Hess, the team's only real outside threat. But he needs some help. Senior forward Willybiro is a solid interior scorer, while Aylsworth and Tiwaun Hawkins are generous point guards. But Lehigh must find an explosive scorer to make up for the loss of guard Brett Eppehimer.
Last league title: 1988 (East Coast).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Bethlehem, Pa. **Home court:** Stabler Arena (5,600).

7 ARMY
National Rank: 309

Coach: Pat Harris (16-38, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 8-19. Patriot: 4-8/5th.
Key players: Seth Barrett, F, 6-4/Jr. (12.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 49.6 FG%); Joe Clark, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Jonte Harrell, F, 6-7/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Chris Spatola, G, 5-11/Soph. (8.3 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 2.3 apg, 42.2 3pt%, 80.4 FT%).
Outlook: The Cadets will threaten the first division the next few seasons if Harris can keep their nucleus of young players together. Barrett was a second-team all-league selection last year and showed the ability to score well inside. Sophomore point guard Spatola is an all-rookie honoree whose outside shot and distribution skills make him perfect to run the show, while sophomore forward Harrell is a strong rebounder. The big problem comes in the scoring department.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: West Point, N.Y. **Home court:** Christi Arena (5,043).

Patriot Schedules

Army
N20 at Duke
N23 at Cornell
N27 Bethany
N29 Western Md.
D3 at Pennsylvania
D6 at Yale
D9 at Marist
D20 at Seton Hall
D29-30 Stony Brook Tournament
J2 Manhattan
J4 Quinnipiac
J9 Columbia
J12 at Lehigh
J15 Colgate
J19 Bucknell
J22 Lafayette
J26 at Navy
J30 at Holy Cross
F2 Albany
F6 Lehigh
F9 at Colgate
F12 at Bucknell
F16 at Lafayette
F19 at Albany
F22 Holy Cross
F26 Navy

Bucknell
N19-20 Pepsi-Marist Tour.
N23 Robert Morris
N27 at Rider
D1 at St. Francis (Pa.)
D4 at Mount St. Mary's
D8 Princeton
D19 at Penn State
D28-29 Fiesta Bowl Holiday Cl.
J3 at George Mason
J5 Haverford
J8 Cornell
J12 Navy
J15 Holy Cross
J17 Iona
J19 at Army
J22 at Lehigh
J26 Colgate
F2 at Lafayette
F5 at Navy
F9 at Holy Cross
F12 Army
F16 Lehigh
F20 at Colgate
F23 SUNY-Albany
F27 Lafayette

Colgate
N19-20 Mohegan Sun Classic
N23 Canisius
N27 at Niagara
N29 at Syracuse
D2 at Delaware
D6 Long Island
D8 at Siena
D11 at Harvard
D21 Hobart
D23 at Manhattan
J4 at Cornell
J12 Holy Cross
J15 at Army
J19 Lehigh
J22 Dartmouth
J26 at Bucknell
J29 Lafayette
F2 Navy
F5 at Holy Cross
F9 Army
F12 at Lehigh
F14 at Navy
F20 Bucknell
F23 at Lafayette
F26 Ithaca
F29 SUNY-Albany

Holy Cross
N20 at Providence
N23 Harvard
N27 Fordham
N30 at Dartmouth
D7 Boston College
D9 at Yale
D19 Vermont
D22 Northeastern
D27-28 Hoosier Classic
D31 at Princeton
J3 Brown
J6 Sacred Heart
J12 at Colgate
J15 at Bucknell
J19 Lafayette
J23 Navy
J26 at Hartford
J30 Army
F2 at Lehigh
F5 Colgate
F9 Bucknell
F12 at Lafayette
F15 at New Hampshire
F19 at Navy
F22 at Army
F26 Lehigh

Lafayette
N20 at Columbia
N23 at Villanova
N29 Cornell
D1 at Howard
D6 Towson
D11 St. Peter's
D21 Gettysburg
D29-30 Lobo Invitational
J2 at Georgia Tech
J5 Delaware Valley
J8 at Princeton
J12 at Pennsylvania
J16 Navy
J19 at Holy Cross
J22 at Army
J26 Lehigh
J29 at Colgate
F2 Bucknell
F7 SUNY-Albany
F9 at Navy
F12 Holy Cross
F14 at SUNY-Stony Brook
F16 Army
F 19 at Lehigh
F23 Colgate
F27 at Bucknell

Lehigh
N19 Yale
N22 at Penn State
N27 Harvard
N30 Wagner
D4 at Vermont
D6 Drew
D8 Swarthmore
D10 at Columbia
D12 at Manhattan
D30 at Cornell
J3 at Pepperdine
J5 at San Diego
J9 SUNY-Albany
J12 Army
J15 Pennsylvania
J19 at Colgate
J22 Bucknell
J26 at Lafayette
J29 at Navy
F2 Holy Cross
F6 at Army
F8 at Brown
F12 Colgate
F16 at Bucknell
F19 Lafayette
F23 Navy
F26 at Holy Cross

Navy
N19 at Rice
N22 Wake Forest
N24 Richmond
N27 Air Force
N29 U.S. Coast Guard
D2 at Northeastern
D4 at Harvard
D6 Denver
D11 Morgan State
D12 Md.-Balt. Co.
D23 at SMU
D28 Gettysburg
D30 Belmont
J3 UMBC
J5 Liberty
J12 at Bucknell
J16 at Lafayette
J23 at Holy Cross
J26 Army
J29 Lehigh
J31 William & Mary
F2 at Colgate
F5 Bucknell
F9 Lafayette
F12 SUNY-Stony Brook
F14 Colgate
F19 Holy Cross
F23 at Lehigh
F26 at Army

Southland

RANK 29

1 TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO
National Rank: 109

Coach: Tim Carter (55-52, 4 years; 66-68, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 16-10. Southland: 12-6/tied 2nd. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA West 1st round.
Key players: Devin Brown, G, 6-4/So. (16.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.2 apg); Leon Watson, C, 6-8/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 0.8 apg); Lloyd Williams, G, 5-9/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.5 apg); McEverett Powers, F, 6-7, So. (7.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 0.9 apg).
Outlook: The Roadrunners return solid players from a team that led the league in scoring (77.5 ppg) while earning the SLC's automatic NCAA Tournament berth last season. Four starters are back, including super sophomore Brown and Watson. Point guard Williams will start for the third straight year, and Powers looks to be an up-and-coming star. Depth could be a problem.
Last league title: 1992.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: San Antonio. **Home court**: UTSA Convocation Center (5,100).

2 UNIV. OF LA.—MONROE
National Rank: 171

Coach: Mike Vining (320-207, 18 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 13-13. Southland: 12-6/tied 2nd.
Key players: Mike Smith, F, 6-8/Sr. (18.5 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.9 apg); Maurice Bell, G, 6-4/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 1.0 apg); Wojciech Myrda, C, 7-0/So. (7.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 0.4 apg).
Outlook: The Indians should have the talent to contend for the title after a disappointing finish when an extremely athletic team failed to mesh and lost in the first round of the SLC tournament. Smith can flat-out shoot the ball and is a candidate for player of the year. Bell is athletic and consistent, and Myrda is going to improve. The Poland native had 96 blocks last season, and opponents have problems matching up with him.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Monroe, La. **Home court**: Ewing Coliseum (8,000).

3 McNEESE STATE
National Rank: 196

Coach: Ron Everhart (63-73, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 12-14. Southland: 11-7/tied 3rd.
Key players: Demond Mallet, G, 6-1/Sr. (17.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.2 apg); Fred Gentry, F, 6-8/So. (7.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 0.7 apg); Chauncey Bryant, G, 5-9/So. (4.0 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.7 apg).
Outlook: McNeese won 10 of its last 13 games and lost in overtime in the SLC tournament semifinals. The Cowboys won't surprise anyone because the talent is there for them to contend. Mallet, the league's leading scorer the last two seasons, has unlimited outside range, and Gentry and Bryant are back after playing big roles in the team's late-season success last year.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Lake Charles, La. **Home court**: Burton Coliseum (8,000).

4 TEXAS-ARLINGTON
National Rank: 204

Coach: Eddie McCarter (79-113, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 10-16. Southland: 8-10/5th.
Key players: Keith Greene, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.6 apg); Bill Washington, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 2.7 apg); Jason Arbuckle, G, 6-0/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.6 apg).
Outlook: UTA should surge to contender status with the return of two key players and the addition of two others. Greene and Washington give the team talented veterans to lean on, while transfers Anthony Goode (Texas) and Robert Washington (North Texas) are expected to give immediate punch to a team that ran low on bodies because of injuries and defections. McCarter should have one of his most talented teams.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Arlington, Texas. **Home court**: Texas Hall (4,200).

5 SOUTHWEST TEXAS
National Rank: 232

Coach: Mike Miller (74-61, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 18-8. Southland: 13-5/1st.
Key players: Wesley Williams, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 0.7 apg); Michael Lane, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 0.8 apg); Jason Blair, F, 6-6/So. (5.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 0.5 apg).
Outlook: Southwest Texas was gutted by player losses, including league Player of the Year Donte Mathis and Jeff Foster, an NBA first-round pick. Williams is the only returning starter. Despite the losses, the Bobcats will be competitive because Miller's teams always play strong defense and rebound well. Points could be hard to come by, however.
Last league title: 1999.
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: San Marcos, Texas. **Home court**: Strahan Coliseum (7,200).

6 NICHOLLS STATE
National Rank: 249

Coach: Ricky Broussard (123-126, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-14. Southland: 12-6/2nd.
Key players: James Banks, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg,

By Kevin Gore
The Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches, Texas)

All-Southland

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Demond Mallett, McNeese State	6-1	182	Sr.
G	Devin Brown, Texas-San Antonio	6-4	200	So.
F	Mike Smith, Louisiana-Monroe	6-8	195	Sr.
F	Patrick Gusters, Stephen F. Austin	6-5	175	Jr.
F	Maurice Bell, Louisiana-Monroe	6-4	251	Sr.

Player of the Year
Mike Smith, F, Northeast Louisiana

Newcomer of the Year
Anthony Goode, G, Texas-Arlington

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Demond Mallet, McNeese State
Best rebounder: Bill Washington, Texas-Arlington
Best playmaker: Anthony Goode, Texas-Arlington
Best defender: Wojciech Myrda, Louisiana-Monroe
Best leaper: Maurice Bell, Louisiana-Monroe
Most versatile: Mike Smith, Louisiana-Monroe
Most flamboyant: Maurice Bell, Louisiana-Monroe
Best NBA prospect: Wojciech Myrda, La.-Monroe

3.3 apg); Chris Worrell, F, 6-4/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.5 apg); Lorenzo Wright, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 0.9 apg).
Outlook: Despite having just three starters returning and losing first-team all-SLC Jason McCutcheon (14.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg), the Colonels signed a solid recruiting class that features junior-college transfers Arthur Haralson (6-5, 220, F, Gary, Ind./Northwest College) and Marlon Green (6-5, 175, G, Aurora, Colo./Northeastern Oklahoma A&M). Nicholls may be hard-pressed to contend for the title, but the Colonels should be in the top half of the league standings.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Thibodaux, La. **Home court**: Stopher Gym (3,800).

7 SAM HOUSTON
National Rank: 273

Coach: Bob Marlin (10-16, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 10-16. Southland: 7-11/5th.
Key players: David Amaya, G, 6-7/Sr. (16.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.5 apg); Jeremy Burkhalter, F, 6-4/Jr. (16.0 ppg, 4.0, 1.5 apg); Boney Watson, G, 5-11/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 5.7 apg); Ricky Fernandez, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.4 apg); Demetrius Smith, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 5.7 apg).
Outlook: With 10 returning players from a 10-16 team, Sam Houston will be one of the more experienced teams in the league. Two pillars of the team are Amaya and Burkhalter. Watson has led the league in assists the last two seasons and is one of four players who averaged double figures. The Bearkats need improvement on defense and rebounding for a turnaround to take place.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Huntsville, Texas. **Home court**: Johnson Coliseum (5,600).

8 LAMAR
National Rank: 290

Coach: Mike Deane (first year; 100-55, 5 years).
1998-99 record: 16-10. Southland: 11-7/tied 3rd.
Key players: Landon Rowe, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 2.1 apg); Kenyon Spears, F, 6-3/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.7 apg); Malcolm McCreight, G, 5-8/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.9 apg); Marlone Jackson, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 0.6 apg).
Outlook: Deane, formerly of Marquette, takes the reins of a team that will feature a blend of old and new faces. Four players, including double-digit scorers Rowe, Spears, Jackson and McCreight, will be asked to lead the way for a team that will have eight newcomers—five signees and three players who sat out last season to work on academics. Deane knows how to win. The Cardinals could be a wild card that could sneak its way into contention.
Last league title: 1984.
Last NCAA appearance: 1983.
Site: Beaumont, Texas. **Home court**: Montagne Center (10,080).

9 NORTHWESTERN STATE
National Rank: 301

Coach: Mike McConathy (first year).
1998-99 record: 11-15. Southland: 8-10/4th.
Key players: Richard Taylor, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.3 apg); Alann Polk, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 1.5 apg); Will Burks, F, Jr. (8.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.3 apg); Ryan Duplessis, G, 6-2/So. (9.6 ppg. 3/5 rpg, 1.6 apg).
Outlook: McConathy, formerly of Bossier Parish (La.) Community College, assumes control of a team that returns every player who finished last season with the Demons. The team will be quick and athletic but will lack size and bulk. Top gun Taylor averaged 12 points with an ankle injury. Although the team returns a lot, there are also a lot of questions, especially inside.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Natchitoches, La. **Home court**: Prather Coliseum (3,900).

10 SE LOUISIANA
National Rank: 312

Coach: Bill Kennedy (first year).
1998-99 record: 6-20. Southland: 3-15/6th.
Key players: Kelland Payton, C, 6-10/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 0.4 apg); Lee Carney, G, 5-10/Jr. (3.2 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 3.3 apg); Jason Elloie, F, 6-7/So. (5.0 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 0.7 apg).
Outlook: Kennedy plans on defense sparking a turnaround. It will have to, because his team's only returning starter—Payton—averaged 7.4 points a game. Jaron Singletary, a 6-3 junior-college transfer from California, is expected to help from the perimeter. Don't expect miracles. The team lacks size and scorers.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hammond, La. **Home court**: University Center (7,500).

11 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
National Rank: 313

Coach: Derek Allister (26-53, three year).
1998-99 record: 4-22. Southland: 2-16/7th.
Key players: Patrick Gusters, F, 6-5/Jr. (20.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.9 apg); Terrance Lofton, F, 6-3/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.8 apg); Travis Beavers, F, 6-8/So. (5.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 0.7 apg).
Outlook: Gusters, the league's top scorer last season, returns, but there are plenty of holes to fill around him for the Lumberjacks. Four players from last year's team left during or after the season, leading to the coaching staff to signing seven new players—five via the junior-college route. With so many players swinging through the door, it's hard to imagine this team being a contender.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nacogdoches, Texas. **Home court**: William R. Johnson Coliseum (7,200).

Southland Schedules

Lamar
N20 Texas Southern
N23 at SMU
N27 Drake
N30 at San Francisco
D11 Tulane
D15 at Southwestern La.
D18 Texas A&M
D22 at Rice
D28 Univ. of La.-Monroe
D30 Northwestern St.
J3 at Oklahoma
J6 at Stephen F. Austin
J8 McNeese St.
J13 at Southwest Texas
J15 at Texas-San Antonio
J20 SE Louisiana
J22 Nicholls St.
J27 at Sam Houston St.
J29 at Texas-Arlington
F3 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
F5 at Northwestern St.
F10 Stephen F. Austin
F17 San Houston St.
F19 Texas-Arlington
F26 Southwest Texas
M2 at McNeese St.
M4 at SE Louisiana

McNeese State
N19 at Wichita St.
N23 at Mississippi
N27 at Baylor
D4 at W. Virginia
D11 at La. Tech
D16 SW Louisiana
D18 Richmond
D22 Jackson St.
D28 Northwestern St.
J3 at New Orleans
J6 Sam Houston St.
J8 at Lamar
J13 at Texas-San Antonio
J15 at Southwest Texas
J20 Nicholls St.
J22 SE Louisiana
J27 at Texas-Arlington
J29 at Sam Houston St.
F3 at Northwestern St.
F5 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
F12 Stephen F. Austin
F17 Texas-Arlington
F19 at SE Louisiana
F24 Southwest Texas
F26 Texas-San Antonio
M2 Lamar
M4 at Nicholls St.

Louisiana-Monroe
N19 at Southwestern La.
N22 at Samford
N27 at Texas Christian
D2 Ark.-Monticello
D7 Southern Miss.
D10 Grambling St.
D15 Houston
D19 at Mississippi
D21 at Memphis
D30 at Lamar
J3 Nicholls St.
J6 Texas-Arlington
J15 at Stephen F. Austin
J17 Northwestern St.
J20 Southwest Texas
J22 Texas-San Antonio
J27 at Nicholls St.
J31 at SE Louisiana
F3 Lamar
F5 McNeese St.
F10 at Sam Houston St.
F12 at Texas-Arlington
F17 at Texas-San Antonio
F19 at Southwest Texas
F24 SE Louisiana
F26 Stephen F. Austin
M2 at Northwestern St.

Nicholls State
N20 Centenary
N24 at Tulane
N29 Loyola (La.)
D8 at La. Tech
D11 at Northwestern
D14 at DePaul
D18 New Orleans
D21 Southwestern Kansas
D23 at LSU
D28 Stephen F. Austin
D30 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
J6 at Southwest Texas
J13 Sam Houston St.
J15 Texas-Arlington
J20 at McNeese St.
J22 at Lamar
J27 Univ. of La.-Monroe
J29 Northwestern St.
F3 at Stephen F. Austin
F10 Texas-San Antonio
F12 Southwest Texas
F14 at Northwestern St.
F17 at Southeast La.
F24 at Sam Houston St.
F26 at Texas-Arlington
M2 SE Louisiana
M4 McNeese St.

Northwestern State
N19 at Wyoming
N21 at Kansas St.
N23 Louisiana College
N27 at Troy St.
N30 at Texas Christian
D15 Southern
D20 Southeastern Kansas
D28 at Lamar
D30 at McNeese St.
J6 Sam Houston St.
J8 Texas-Arlington
J13 at Stephen F. Austin
J16 Centenary
J20 Texas-San Antonio
J27 SE Louisiana
J29 at Nicholls St.
F3 McNeese St.
F5 Lamar
F10 at Texas-Arlington
F12 at Sam Houston St.
F14 Nicholls St.
F17 at Southwest Texas
F19 at Texas-San Antonio
F24 Stephen F. Austin
M2 Univ. of La.-Monroe

Sam Houston State
N20 Schriener
N23 Texas Wesleyan
N26-27 Lobo Classic
D3-4 Cyclone Classic
D7 at Baylor
D18 at LSU
D21 at New Orleans
D28 Texas-San Antonio
D30 Southwest Texas
J6 at Northwestern St.
J8 at McNeese St.
J13 at Nicholls St.
J15 at SE Louisiana
J20 at Stephen F. Austin
J27 Lamar
J29 McNeese St.
F3 at Southwest Texas
F5 at Texas-San Antonio
F10 Univ. of La.-Monroe
F12 Northwestern St.
F17 at Lamar
F19 at Stephen F. Austin
F24 Nicholls St.
F26 SE Louisiana
M2 at Texas-Arlington

SE Louisiana
N20 Southern
N22 at LSU
N29 Florida A&M
D1 at Mississippi St.
D4 Louisiana College
D11 at Troy St.
D15 at Mississippi
D18 at SMU
D30 Stephen F. Austin
J3 Loyola (La.)
J6 at Texas-San Antonio
J8 at Southwest Texas
J13 Texas-Arlington
J15 Sam Houston St.
J20 at Lamar
J22 at McNeese St.
J27 at Northwestern St.
J29 Univ. of La.-Monroe
F5 at Stephen F. Austin
F10 Southwest Texas
F12 Texas-San Antonio
F17 Nicholls St.
F19 McNeese St.
F24 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
F26 at Sam Houston St.
M2at Nicholls St.
M4 Lamar

Southwest Texas
N22 Colorado Christian
N26-27 Sooner Holiday Cl.
D4 at St. Louis
D6 UT-Dallas
D15 Texas Southern
D18 at Wis.-Green Bay
D21 at Texas Tech
D28 at Texas-Arlington
D30 at Sam Houston
J3 Centenary
J6 Nicholls St.
J8 SE Louisiana
J13 Lamar
J15 McNeese St.
J20 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
J24 at Stephen F. Austin
J29 at Texas-San Antonio
F3 Sam Houston St.
F5 Texas-Arlington
F10 at SE Louisiana
F12 at Nicholls St.
F17 Northwestern St.
F19 Univ. of La.-Monroe
F24 at McNeese St.
F26 at Lamar
M4 Texas-San Antonio

Stephen F. Austin
N19 LeTourneau
N21 at Loyola of Chicago
N23 at New Mexico
N29 Texas College
D1 at Texas A&M
D4 Rice
D6 Texas Tech
D11 South Alabama
D21 Louisiana Tech
D28 at Nicholls St.
D30 SE Louisiana
J6 Lamar
J8 Texas-San Antonio
J13 Northwestern St.
J15 Univ. of La.-Monroe
J20 Sam Houston St.
J22 Texas-Arlington
J24 Southwest Texas
J27 at Texas-San Antonio
F3 Nicholls St.
F5 SE Louisiana
F10 at Lamar
F12 at McNeese St.
F17 Texas-Arlington
F19 Sam Houston St.
F24 Northwestern St.
F26 Univ. of La.-Monroe

Texas-Arlington
N20 at Minnesota
N23 at Arkansas
N27 at Samford
N30 UMKC
D2 Texas Wesleyan
D13 SUNY-Stony Brook
D14 St. Edward's
D18 at Texas Christian
D28 Southwest Texas
D30 Texas-San Antonio
J6 at Northwestern St.
J8 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
J13 at SE Louisiana
J15 at Nicholls St.
J22 Stephen F. Austin
J27 McNeese St.
J29 Lamar
F3 at Texas-San Antonio
F5 at Southwest Texas
F10 Northwestern St.
F12 Univ. of La.-Monroe
F17 at McNeese St.
F19 at Lamar
F26 Nicholls St.
M2 Sam Houston St.
M4 Stephen F. Austin

Texas-San Antonio
N20 Texas College
N23 Colorado Christian
N27 Texas A&M Corpus Christi
N29 at Kansas St.
D1 at Tulsa
D4 at Oklahoma St.
D6 at Texas Christian
D9 at Texas A&M Corpus Christi
D18 at Troy St.
D28 at Sam Houston St.
D30 at Texas-Arlington
J6 SE Louisiana
J8 at Stephen F. Austin
J13 McNeese St.
J15 Lamar
J20 at Northwestern St.
J22 at Univ. of La.-Monroe
J27 Stephen F. Austin
J29 Southwest Texas
F3 Texas-Arlington
F5 Sam Houston St.
F10 at Nicholls St.
F12 at SE Louisiana
F17 Univ. of La.-Monroe
F19 Northwestern La.
F26 at McNeese St.
M4 at Southwest Texas

Southwestern Athletic

RANK 28

1 ALCORN STATE
National Rank: 117

Coach: Davey Whitney (441-239, 23 years; 496-302 overall, 28 years; 3-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 23-7. SWAC: 14-2/1st.
Key players: Wallace Harris, G, 6-3, Sr. (8.6 ppg, 2.2 spg); Terrance Cameron, F, 6-5, Sr. (9.0 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Walter Harper, C, 6-8, Soph. (4.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg).
Outlook: Alcorn State returns the best coach in the league as well as three starters and several key reserves. Point guard Reuben Stiff, the heart and soul of last year's team, is gone. But Harris returns at the off-guard spot. Cameron, an underrated, do-it-all type of forward, and Harper are back as well. Marcus Fleming is an emerging talent, and high-flying Brian Adams should be back in true form after being slowed by an ankle injury last season.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Lorman, Miss. **Home court:** Davey L. Whitney Complex (7,000).

2 JACKSON STATE
National Rank: 169

Coach: Andy Stoglin (154-140, 10 years; 187-163 overall, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 16-12. SWAC: 12-5/3rd.
Key players: Deon Burns, F, 6-6, Sr. (8.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg); Vincent Jones, C, 6-11, Jr. (12.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg); Marino Walker, G, 6-3, Sr. (7.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg).
Outlook: Jackson State returns several key components off last year's team, including star center Jones and rugged rebounder Burns, and again should be in the thick of the conference race. The Tigers also should be one of the deepest teams in the league.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1997.
Site: Jackson, Miss. **Home court:** Williams Athletics & Assembly Center (8,000).

3 SOUTHERN
National Rank: 194

Coach: Tommy Green (44-37, 3 years).
1998-99 record: 21-7. SWAC: 13-3/2nd.
Key players: Adarrial Smylie, C/F, 6-7, Sr. (19.0 ppg, 8.9 rpg); Devan Clark, G, 6-0, Jr. (8.3 ppg, 6.8 apg); Greg Martin, F, 6-7, Jr. (8.0 ppg, 8.4 rpg).
Outlook: Aaron Bates and Dionte Harvey—two of the better players in the league the past two years—are gone. But Smylie and Clark—two of the best players in the league—return. Green also brought in another good recruiting class. A couple of those players will have to step up to help Smylie and Clark if Southern is to stay at or near the top of the SWAC.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** Clark Activity Center (7,500).

4 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
National Rank: 228

Coach: Lafayette Stribling (230-235, 16 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-13. SWAC: 10-6/4th.
Key players: Marcus Metcalf, G, 6-0, Sr. (13.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg); Henry Jordan, C, 6-10, Jr. (9.2 ppg, 7.0 rpg); Derrick McInnis, F, 6-11, Jr. (2.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg); David Burks, F, 6-7, Sr. (8.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg).
Outlook: Stribling must find a way to replace high-scoring guard Faragi Phillips (20.9 ppg), the SWAC's leading scorer last season. Four starters return, including leading rebounder Burks and leading shot blocker Jordan. Metcalf, along with newcomers Ashley Robinson and D'Jamel Jackson, are expected to fill the void left by Phillips. Freshman Steven Redd could figure into the mix as well. The Delta Devils could push JSU, Alcorn and Southern for the league title again.
Last league title: 1997.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Itta Bena, Miss. **Home court:** Harrison Complex (5,500).

5 TEXAS SOUTHERN
National Rank: 247

Coach: Robert Moreland (378-314, 24 years; 650-390 overall, 36 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 8-18. SWAC: 6-10/7th.
Key players: Ifey Anyanwu, C/F, 6-7, Sr. (12 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Patrick Dyse, G/F, 6-3, Sr. (8.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Derick Malone, G/F, 6-6, Sr. (8.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg).
Outlook: Last season, the Tigers finished last in the league in scoring (64.7 ppg) and 3-point field-goal percentage (25.0 percent). But Moreland says he took care of that by bringing in a recruiting class that many TSU insiders say is the school's best in several years. Three starters return, including physical center/forward Anyanwu, giving Moreland a nice blend of returnees and newcomers.
Last league title: 1998.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Houston. **Home court:** Health and PE Arena (8,100).

6 ALABAMA STATE
National Rank: 248

Coach: Rob Spivery (30-54, 3 years; 204-199 overall, 14 years).
1998-99 record: 11-16. SWAC: 8-8/5th.
Key players: Tyrone Levett, F, 6-5, Soph. (7.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg); Joey Ball, G, 6-2, Soph. (7.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg); Richard Millsap, G/F, 6-4, Soph. (5.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg).
Outlook: Fifth place probably would be a good finish for the Hornets this season considering the talent at the top of the conference, the departure of their two leading scorers, and the inexperience and unproven depth on the roster. But at least Levett, a member of the All-SWAC rookie team last year, is a promising player on which to build.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Montgomery, Ala. **Home court:** Joe L. Reed Acadome (8,000).

7 GRAMBLING STATE
National Rank: 272

Coach: Larry Wright (first year).
1998-99 record: 6-21. SWAC: 5-11/8th.
Key players: Chris Thomas, F/C, 6-7, Sr. (17.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg); Devin Ewing, G/F, 6-6, Jr. (4.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg); Dionne Smith, F, 6-4, Jr. (1.9 ppg, 1.5 rpg); Brandon Thomas, G/F, 6-6, Jr. (0.9 ppg, 0.9 rpg).
Outlook: The Tigers return just one starter off last year's team—Thomas—a burly forward with an uncanny knack for scoring in the low blocks. The Tigers return three other players, but they combined for six points a game last season. Wright has a huge rebuilding task in front of him. Don't expect much from the Tigers this season.
Last league title: 1989 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Grambling, La. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (4,000).

8 ALABAMA A&M
National Rank: 281

Coach: Vann Pettaway (291-100, 13 years).
1998-99 record: 10-17. SWAC: 7-11/6th.
Key players: Miguel Smith, G, 6-2, Sr. (15.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg); Terrance Vanlier, F, 6-5, Sr. (19.3 ppg, 7.0 rpg); Desmond Cambridge, G, 6-2, Fr. (5.6 ppg, 2.5 apg).
Outlook: If Pettaway's squad, which returns four starters, can turn some close calls into wins this season, the Bulldogs could make some noise. To do so, they will rely heavily on the outside shooting of Smith and underrated forward Vanlier. Center Anthony Riley and guard Cambridge also return.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Normal, Ala. **Home court:** Elmore Gym (6,000).

9 PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
National Rank: 306

Coach: Elwood Plummer (127-278, 9 years; 303-384 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 6-21. SWAC: 4-12/9th.
Key players: Aaron Thompson, F/C, 6-8, 225, Jr. (4.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg); Ivan Coulter, C/F, 6-7, 205, Soph. (5.0 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Xavier Lee, F, 6-4, Soph. (9.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg); Gregory Burks, G, 5-8, Soph. (13.0 ppg, 3.0 apg); Omari Traylor, F, 6-6, Jr. (7.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg).
Outlook: Plummer has a solid enough nucleus returning (three starters, three key reserves), but not solid enough to challenge for a conference title. Plummer must find a way to replace sweet-shooting Jocquinn Arch and his 16 points per game. The man likely to pick up where Arch left off is Burks.
Last league title: 1962.
Last NCAA appearance: 1998.
Site: Prairie View, Texas. **Home court:** Baby Dome (5,000).

10 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
National Rank: 310

Coach: Harold Blevins (26-75, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 3-24. SWAC: 1-15/10th.
Key players: Jeremy Jefferson, C, 6-7, Soph. (13.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg); Shawn Eldridge, F, 6-5, Sr. (11.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg); Michael Vickers, F, 6-6, Jr. (8.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg); Patrick Chambers, F, 6-6, Sr. (13.2 ppg, 7.2 rpg).
Outlook: The Golden Lions are in for a long season, but there are a few bright spots. Jefferson, who became eligible at semester break last season, emerged as the team leader and averaged a team-best 13.4 ppg. Chambers, the Golden Lions' second-leading scorer two years ago, returns after sitting out last season for academic reasons. Three other starters return as well.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Pine Bluff, Ark. **Home court:** Hyper Complex (4,500).

By Mark Alexander
The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.)

All-SWAC

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Devan Clark, Southern	6-0	x	Jr.
G	Wallace Harris, Alcorn State	6-3	190	Sr.
C	Vincent Jones, Jackson State	6-11	205	Sr.
F	Chris Thomas, Grambling	6-7	x	Sr.
F	Adarrial Smylie, Southern	6-7	x	Sr.

Player of the Year
Adarrial Smylie, F, Southern

Newcomer of the Year
Corey Mangum, G, Alcorn State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Miguel Smith, Alabama A&M.
Best rebounder: Adarrial Smylie, Southern.
Best playmaker: Devan Clark, Southern.
Best defender: Wallace Harris, Alcorn State.
Best leaper: Brian Adams, Alcorn State.
Most versatile: Marcus Fleming, Alcorn State.
Most flamboyant: Vincent Jones, Jackson State.
Best NBA prospect: Vincent Jones, Jackson State.

Southwestern Athletic Schedules

Alabama A&M
N20 at Mississippi St.
N23 at UAB
N27 Marshall
N29 at Memphis
D4 Tuskegee
D11 at Jackson St.
D18 at Grambling St.
D21 at Alabama
D28 at South Alabama
J1 Mississippi Valley St.
J3 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J8 at Alabama St.
J15 at Southern
J17 at Alcorn St.
J20 Belmont
J22 Prairie View A&M
J24 Texas Southern
J27 Talladega
J29 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J31 at Miss. Valley St.
F5 Alabama St.
F7 at Georgia St.
F12 Southern
F14 Alcorn St.
F19 at Prairie View A&M
F21 at Texas Southern
F26 Jackson St.
F28 Grambling St.

Alabama State
N19 Faulkner
N23 at South Alabama
D1 Mississippi
D7 Montevallo
D11 at Murray St.
D18 at Jackson St.
D20 at Grambling St.
D29-30 Lobo Invitational
J3 Mississippi Valley St.
J5 Ark.-Pine Bluff
J8 Alabama A&M
J15 at Alcorn St.
J17 at Southern
J22 Texas Southern
J24 Prairie View A&M
J29 at Miss. Valley St.
J31 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
F5 at Alabama A&M
F7 Athens St.
F12 Alcorn St.
F14 Southern
F19 at Texas Southern
F21 at Prairie View A&M
F26 Grambling St.
F28 Jackson St.
M4 Knoxville College

Alcorn State
N20 at Southern Miss.
N26-27 Lobo Classic
D4 Tougaloo
D7 Bellhaven
D11 at LSU
D15 at Oklahoma St.
D20 at Prairie View A&M
D22 at Texas Southern
D28 at Arkansas
J1 Jackson State
J3 Grambling St.
J8 at Miss. Valley St.
J10 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J15 Alabama St.
J17 Alabama A&M
J22 at Southern
J29 at Jackson St.
J31 at Grambling St.
F5 Mississippi Valley St.
F7 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F12 at Alabama St.
F14 at Alabama A&M
F19 Southern
F26 Texas Southern
F28 Prairie View A&M

Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N21 at Auburn
N23 at Mississippi St.
N27 at Tulsa
N29 at SMU
D7 at Miss. Valley St.
D9 at Drake
D18 at Ark.-Little Rock
D31 at Baylor
J3 at Alabama A&M
J5 at Alabama St.
J8 Southern
J10 Alcorn St.
J15 at Texas Southern
J17 at Prairie View A&M
J22 Grambling St.
J24 Jackson St.
J29 Alabama St.
J31 Alabama A&M
F2 Philander Smith
F5 at Southern
F7 at Alcorn St.
F12 Texas Southern
F14 Prairie View A&M
F16 at Philander Smith
F19 at Grambling St.
F21 Jackson St.
F28 Mississippi Valley St.

Grambling
N19 at LSU
N22 at Washington St.
N24-27 Great Alaska Shootout
D1 Jarvis Christian
D6 at Creighton
D8 Wiley College
D11 at La.-Monroe
D15 at Arkansas
D20 Alabama St.
D22 Alabama A&M
D23 at Memphis
D28 at Texas Christian
J3 at Alcorn St.
J5 at Southern
J8 Prairie View A&M
J10 at Texas Southern
J15 at Jackson St.
J22 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
J24 at Miss. Valley St.
J29 Southern
J31 Alcorn St.
F5 at Prairie View A&M
F7 Texas Southern
F12 Jackson St.
F19 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F21 Mississippi Valley St.
F26 at Alabama St.
F28 at Alabama A&M

Jackson State
N19-21 VoiceStream Wireless Challenge
N25 at UTEP
N29 Tougaloo
D1 at Memphis
D4 at Arkansas
D11 Alabama A&M
D16 Louisiana Tech
D18 Alabama St.
D22 at McNeese St.
D27 at Southern Miss.
J3 Southern
J5 at Alcorn St.
J8 Texas Southern
J10 Prairie View A&M
J15 Grambling St.
J22 at Mississippi Valley St.
J24 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J29 Alcorn St.
J31 Southern
F5 at Texas Southern
F7 at Prairie View A&M
F12 at Grambling St.
F19 Mississippi Valley St.
F21 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F26 at Alabama St.
F28 at Alabama A&M

Miss. Valley St.
N19 at UNLV
N22 Creighton
N24 at Jackson St.
N30 at Detroit
D3-4 Cyclone Challenge
D7 Ark.-Pine Bluff
D11 at Cincinnati
D23 at Drake
D28 at Michigan St.
J3 at Alabama St.
J5 at Alabama A&M
J8 Alcorn St.
J10 Southern
J15 at Texas Southern
J17 at Prairie View A&M
J22 Jackson St.
J24 Grambling St.
J29 Alabama St.
J31 Alabama A&M
F5 at Alcorn St.
F7 at Southern
F12 Texas Southern
F14 Prairie View A&M
F19 at Jackson St.
F21 at Grambling St.
F28 at Ark.-Pine Bluff

Prairie View
N21 at Tulane
N27 at Wichita St.
N30 Dallas Christian Coll.
D4-5 PowerBar Invitational
D12 at Texas Tech
D14 at Cleveland St.
D16 at Wright St.
D20 Alcorn St.
D22 Southern
D29 at Mississippi
J8 at Grambling St.
J10 at Jackson St.
J15 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
J17 Mississippi Valley St.
J22 at Alabama A&M
J24 at Alabama St.
J29 Texas Southern
F5 Grambling St.
F7 Jackson St.
F12 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F14 at Miss. Valley St.
F19 Alabama A&M
F21 Alabama St.
F26 at Southern
F28 at Alcorn St.
M4 at Texas Southern

Southern
N20 at Southeastern La.
N22 Dillard
N28 West Alabama
D1 at Centenary
D4 at Wash. St.
D14 at Northwestern St.
D20 Georgia St.
D22 at Prairie View A&M
D28 at Baylor
D30 at Texas Southern
J3 Jackson St.
J5 Grambling St.
J8 at Ark.-Pine Bluff
J10 at Miss. Valley St.
J15 Alabama A&M
J17 Alabama St.
J22 Alcorn St.
J29 at Grambling St.
J31 at Jackson St.
F5 Ark.-Pine Bluff
F7 Mississippi Valley St.
F12 at Alabama A&M
F14 at Alabama St.
F19 at Alcorn St.
F26 Texas Southern
F28 Prairie View A&M

Texas Southern
N20 at Lamar
N22 Tougaloo
N29 Wiley College
D3-4 Hawkeye Invitational
D10-11 Cougar Classic
D16 at SW Texas St.
D22 Alcorn St.
D30 Southern
J4 Huston-Tillotson
J8 at Jackson St.
J10 at Grambling St.
J15 at Miss. Valley St.
J17 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
J22 at Alabama St.
J24 at Alabama A&M
J29 at Prairie View A&M
F5 Jackson St.
F7 Grambling St.
F12 at Miss. Valley St.
F14 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F19 Alabama St.
F21 Alabama A&M
F26 at Southern
F28 at Alcorn St.
M4 Prairie View A&M

Trans America Athletic

By Bob Pockrass
Daytona Beach News Journal

All-TAAC

Pos.	Name, school	Ht.	Wt.	Class
G	Anton Reese, Georgia State	6-3	185	Sr.
G	Kevin Morris, Georgia State	6-0	175	Sr.
F	Sebastian Singletary, Stetson	6-5	235	Jr.
F	Calvin Slaughter, Jacksonville	6-5	210	Sr.
F	Reed Rawlings, Samford	6-7	225	Sr.

Player of the Year
Kevin Morris, G, Georgia State

Newcomer of the Year
Detric Golden, G, Troy State

Honor Roll
Best shooter: Reed Rawlings, Samford
Best rebounder: Santos Hampton, Stetson
Best playmaker: Kevin Morris, Georgia State
Best defender: Sebastian Singletary, Stetson
Best leaper: Mario Lovett, Central Florida
Most versatile: Will Daniel, Samford
Most flamboyant: Calvin Slaughter, Jacksonville
Best NBA prospect: Kevin Morris, Georgia State

RANK 25

1 SAMFORD
National Rank: 100

Coach: Jimmy Tillette (38-19, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 24-6. TAAC: 15-1/1st.
Key players: Reed Rawlings, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2.0 apg); Will Daniel, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.3 apg); Marc Salyers, F, 6-9/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 3.1 apg); Mario Lopez, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 3.3 apg); Boyd Kaiser, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.3 apg); Derrick Jones, G, 6-4/Jr. (Miss. State transfer).
Outlook: The defending TAAC champions will throw a wrinkle in the Princeton offense they perfected last season. Even with all five starters back, Tillette will integrate Mississippi State transfer Jones and look for him to have a big impact. Jones will join a team that includes 1998 TAAC player of the year Rawlings, who can pop the jumper as easily as execute the back-door cut. Daniel can play anywhere on the court, Salyers is money down low and the seasoned Lopez runs the offense like clockwork. Kaiser is a defensive force in the paint, and foes can't count out Chris Weaver, who shot 48 percent from 3-point range as a freshman.
Last league title: 1999.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1998.
Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Seibert Hall (4,000).

2 GEORGIA STATE
National Rank: 167

Coach: Charles "Lefty" Driesell (33-25, 2 years; 716-360 overall, 27 years; 15-13 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 17-13. TAAC: 11-5/3rd.
Key players: Kevin Morris, G, 6-0/Jr. (16.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 5.9 apg); Anton Reese, G, 6-3/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 2.0 apg); D.J. Wootson, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC transfer); Shernard Long, G, 6-4/Jr. (Georgetown transfer); Torquin Gresham, C, 6-7/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg).
Outlook: Driesell has possibly the most talented team in the league; any Georgia State player can do damage with the ball. But are there enough basketballs to go around? Morris, the TAAC's assists leader last year, can take over a game at will. And Reese is deadly when he finds his rhythm. The addition of Long from Georgetown and Wootson, a junior-college All-American, make Georgia State a little guard-heavy. The team's success relies on Gresham being on his game, especially defensively, every night in the post.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** GSU Sports Arena (5,500).

3 STETSON
National Rank: 178

Coach: Murray Arnold (25-28, 2 years; 390-202 overall, 20 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 14-13. TAAC: 10-6/4th.
Key players: Sebastian Singletary, F, 6-5/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 8.4 rpg); Santos Hampton, C, 6-7/Soph. (9.8 ppg, 8.1 rpg); Mario Haynes, G, 5-10/Sr. (3.6 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 4.1 apg.
Outlook: Stetson matches up well in the TAAC, keyed by Singletary and Hampton, possibly the league's best post combo. They don't have the height, but they block out well and play smart. Stetson doesn't have many game-breakers on its bench, but the bench is loaded with guys who can contribute significant minutes. The players will need to stay close in games and grind them out. They can do that if they stay healthy.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: DeLand, Fla. **Home court:** Edmunds Center (5,000).

4 CENTRAL FLORIDA
National Rank: 180

Coach: Kirk Speraw (86-84, 6 years).
1998-99 record: 19-10. TAAC: 13-3/2nd.
Key players: D'Quarius Stewart, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.9 ppg); Mario Lovett, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Cory Perry, G, 5-11/Sr. (6.4 ppg); Jason Thornton, F, 6-5/Soph. (7.7 ppg).
Outlook: The Golden Knights, the 1998 TAAC runners-up, boast a slew of good players, but none that will give other TAAC teams matchup problems. Replacing leading scorer Brad Traina (16.7 ppg) won't be done by any one player, though Thornton should take up some of that scoring load. Lovett must lead the team on the boards, where it ranked third in the league last year. And UCF will need to match another 1998 ranking—it led the TAAC in field-goal percentage defense (41.1 percent).
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1996.
Site: Orlando. **Home court:** UCF Arena (5,100).

5 JACKSONVILLE
National Rank: 195

Coach: Hugh Durham (20-34, 2 years; 548-345 overall, 31 years; 8-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 12-15. TAAC: 7-9/6th.
Key players: Calvin Slaughter, F, 6-5/Jr. (15.8 ppg, 6.3 rpg); Ivin Gunder, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg); Marvin Augustin, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg); Shawn Platts, G, 6-3/Soph. (7.0 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.8 apg).
Outlook: The second go-around in the TAAC should be much easier for the Dolphins, who won five of their final seven conference games. Slaughter is one of the best inside players in the league, and Gunder is a clutch man from the free-throw line (82.6 FT%). One of the TAAC's better defensive teams, Durham's club will have to do better than its 42 percent field-goal shooting.
Last league title: 1986 (Sun Belt).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Jacksonville. **Home court:** Jacksonville Coliseum (9,150).

6 CAMPBELL
National Rank: 238

Coach: Billy Lee (184-208, 14 years; 305-296 overall, 21 years).
1998-99 record: 9-18. TAAC: 6-10/T7th.
Key players: Jamie Simmons, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg); Eddie Walker, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.3 ppg); Adam Fellers, G, 6-2/Soph. (8.5 ppg); Wes Layton, G, 5-11/Soph. (7.5 ppg, 4.3 apg); Tyreck Knox, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg).
Outlook: Look at the stats and the players, and even seventh seems like a high pick for the Camels. With home games in the bandbox affectionately known as Carter Gym, Campbell will pull off a couple of upsets at home. But if Campbell isn't on top of its game, a 30-point loss awaits. Improving on its 18 turnovers a game wouldn't hurt.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Buies Creek, N.C. **Home court:** Carter Gym (945).

7 MERCER
National Rank: 271

Coach: Mark Slonaker (13-39, 2 years).
1998-99 record: 8-18. TAAC: 5-11/9th.
Key players: Earnest Brown, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.2 apg; Mark Adamson, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 8.8 rpg); Korey McCray, G, 6-1/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 3.0 apg).
Outlook: The Bears are deeper on the bench than last year, thanks to five newcomers. They return their top two scorers, seniors Brown and Adamson. But Brown shot just 34.6 percent on a team that muddled its way to a 38.1 percent shooting clip. The Bears don't have a big scorer, so they have to do it together.
Last league title: 1985.
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Macon, Ga. **Home court**: Macon Centreplex (2,500).

8 TROY STATE
National Rank: 280

Coach: Don Maestri (280-199, 17 years).
1998-99 record: 9-18. TAAC: 6-10/T7th.
Key players: Eugene Christopher, G, 6-3/Sr. (17.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg); Joey Raines, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg); Robert Rushing, G, 6-1/Soph. (14.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg); Detric Golden, G, 5-10/Sr. (Memphis transfer).
Outlook: The Trojans return all five starters from last season, but a few could start on the bench with a recruiting class of seven newcomers. Depth is needed for the run-and-gun style that led the TAAC in scoring (76.0 ppg). Golden, an all-Conference-USA performer at Memphis, will be one of the best guards in the TAAC.
Last league title: 1994 (East Coast Conference).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Troy, Ala. **Home court:** Trojan Arena (4,000).

9 JACKSONVILLE STATE
National Rank: 298

Coach: Mark Turgeon (8-18, 1 year).
1998-99 record: 8-18. TAAC: 3-13/T10th.
Key players: Marlon Gurley, G, 6-1/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg); Rashard Willie, G, 5-10/Soph. (12.5 ppg, 3.0 apg); Wes Fowler, C, 6-8/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg); Brant Harriman, C, 6-10/Jr. (Nebraska transfer).
Outlook: This guard-heavy team gets a boost down low from Nebraska transfer Harriman. Willie can shoot, and Gurley also can score, but JSU has too many holes to seriously challenge the league upper half.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Jacksonville, Ala. **Home court:** Mathews Coliseum (5,500).

10 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
National Rank: 303

Coach: Sidney Green (First year; 29-60 overall, 4 years).
1998-99 record: 6-20. TAAC: 3-13/T10th.
Key players: Ryan Hercek, G, 6-5/Sr. (5.1 ppg); Jevon Glenn, G, 6-2/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg); Motiejus Reimeris, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC transfer).
Outlook: The TAAC expanded its tournament to include all 10 teams this year, and that was FAU's only chance to make the field. FAU lost all five starters and three returners—including five underclassmen after the school fired Kevin Billerman following last season. Hercek is the top returning scorer at 5.1 ppg and averaged only 11.5 minutes a contest. Green coached two years at LIU-Southampton (29-27) and two at North Florida (20-33), but nothing could prepare him for the season he is about to have.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Boca Raton, Fla. **Home court:** FAU Gymnasium (5,000).

Trans America Athletic Schedules

Campbell
N20 at Wake Forest
N27 UNC-Wilmington
N30 High Point
D2 Elon
D6 at Samford
D16 Winthrop
D18 at South Carolina
D20 at Coastal Carolina
D22 at William & Mary
D30 Middle Tenn. St.
J4at Georgia St.
J8 Stetson
J10 Jacksonville
J13 at Florida Atlantic
J15 at Central Florida
J20 Mercer
J22 Troy St.
J24 at Jacksonville St.
J29 at Mercer
J31 at Troy St.
F3 Samford
F5 Jacksonville St.
F12 Georgia St.
F17 at Jacksonville
F19 at Stetson
F24 Central Florida
F25 Florida Atlantic

Central Florida
N19 Miami (Fla.)
N23 at Winthrop
N26-28 SoCon Holiday Tournament
D3 South Florida
D10 Flagler
D13 at Ohio
D15 at Louisville
D21 UNC-Wilmington
D23 Middle Tenn. St.
D30 Troy St.
J5 Mercer
J8 at Samford
J10 at Jacksonville St.
J13 Georgia St.
J15 Campbell
J20 at Jacksonville
J22 at Stetson
J26 at Florida Atlantic
J29 Jacksonville
J31 Stetson
F5 Florida Atlantic
F10 at Mercer
F12 at Troy St.
F17 Jacksonville St.
F19 Samford
F24 at Campbell
F26 at Georgia St.

Florida Atlantic
N22 at Syracuse
N24 at Bethune-Cookman
D1 Nova Southeastern
D4 Mercer
D13 South Florida
D16 at Fresno St.
D20-22 Nike Festival
D27 at Miami (Fla.)
J4 Troy St.
J8 at Jacksonville St.
J10 at Samford
J13 at Campbell
J15 Georgia St.
J20 at Stetson
J22 at Jacksonville
J26 Central Florida
J29 Stetson
J31 Jacksonville
F5 at Central Florida
F10 at Troy St.
F12 at Mercer
F17 Samford
F19 Jacksonville St.
F22 at UNLV
F24 at Georgia St.
F26 at Campbell

Georgia State
N19 Fresno St.
N24 at Tulsa
N27 at Detroit
D1 Creighton
D4 at Bradley
D7 at Jacksonville St.
D18 Central Michigan
D20 at Southern
D29 Kansas St.
J4 Campbell
J8 Jacksonville
J10 Stetson
J13 at Central Florida
J15 at Florida Atlantic
J20 Troy St.
J22 Mercer
J25 at Samford
J29 at Troy St.
J31 at Mercer
F3 Jacksonville St.
F5 Samford
F7 Alabama A&M
F12 at Campbell
F17 at Stetson
F19 at Jacksonville
F24 Florida Atlantic
F26 Central Florida

Jacksonville
N20 at Coastal Carolina
N23 Georgia Southern
N27 at Florida St.
D2 at Troy St.
D4 Samford
D11 at American
D14 at Northwestern
D18 Baylor
D21 High Point
D30 Florida Tech
J3 Jacksonville St.
J8 at Georgia St.
J10 at Campbell
J15 Stetson
J20 Central Florida
J22 Florida Atlantic
J25 at Mercer
J29 at Central Florida
J31 at Florida Atlantic
F3 Mercer
F5 Troy St.
F10 at Jacksonville St.
F12 at Samford
F17 Campbell
F19 Georgia St.
F24 at Stetson

Jacksonville State
N19 at Mississippi
N23 Mississippi Valley St.
N27 Florida A&M
N30 Georgia Sou.
D4 at Stetson
D7 Georgia St.
D15 at Tennessee St.
D18 at East Carolina
D20 Morehead St.
D22 Mississippi St.
D30 Clayton St.
J4 at Jacksonville
J8 Florida Atlantic
J10 Central Florida
J13 at Mercer
J15 at Troy St.
J22 Samford
J24 Campbell
J29 at Samford
F3 at Georgia St.
F5 at Campbell
F10 Jacksonville
F12 Stetson
F17 at Central Florida
F19 at Florida Atlantic
F24 Troy St.
F26 Mercer

Mercer
N19 at Georgia Tech
N22 Toccoa Falls
N26-28 Big Island Invitational
D4 at Florida Atlantic
D6 Stetson
D8 at Georgia Southern
D18 at Arkansas
D21 Western Carolina
D23 at Georgia
D28-29 Gossner Foods Classic
J2 at UNC-Asheville
J5 at Central Florida
J8 at Troy St.
J13 Jacksonville St.
J15 Samford
J20 at Campbell
J22 at Georgia St.
J25 Jacksonville
J29 Campbell
J31 Georgia St.
F3 at Jacksonville
F5 at Stetson
F10 Central Florida
F12 Florida Atlantic
F19 Troy St.
F24 at Samford
F26 at Jacksonville St.

Samford
N19-20 CoSIDA Classic
N23 La. Monroe
N27 Texas-Arlington
D2 at Alabama
D4 at Jacksonville
D6 Campbell
D11 at Belmont
D18 North Georgia
D21-22 Tribune Holiday Classic
D30 at Wyoming
J4 at Stetson
J8 Central Florida
J10 Florida Atlantic
J13 at Troy St.
J15 at Mercer
J22 at Jacksonville St.
J25 Georgia St.
J29 Jacksonville St.
F3 at Campbell
F5 at Georgia St.
F10 Stetson
F12 Jacksonville
F17 at Florida Atlantic
F19 at Central Florida
F24 Mercer
F26 Troy St.

Stetson
N20 Puerto Rico
N22 Furman
N26 at NC State
D4 Jacksonville St.
D6 at Mercer
D9 at Citadel
D18 at Charleston Southern
D20 at Vanderbilt
D22 at Belmont
D28-29 Capital City Classic
J4 Samford
J8 at Campbell
J10 at Georgia St.
J15 at Jacksonville
J20 Florida Atlantic
J22 Central Florida
J24 at Troy State
J29 at Florida Atlantic
J31 at Central Florida
F3 Troy St.
F5 Mercer
F10 at Samford
F12 at Jacksonville St.
F17 Georgia St.
F19 Campbell
F24 Jacksonville

Troy State
N19 Reinhardt
N23 at Florida A&M
N27 Northwestern St.
D1 Jacksonville
D3-4 First Merchants Classic
D6 at Maine
D11 SE Louisiana
D18 Texas-San Antonio
D21 at Southern Miss.
D30 at Central Florida
J4 at Florida Atlantic
J8 Mercer
J13 Samford
J15 Jacksonville St.
J20 at Georgia St.
J22 at Campbell
J24 Stetson
J29 Georgia St.
J31 Campbell
F3 at Stetson
F5 at Jacksonville
F10 Florida Atlantic
F12 Central Florida
F19 at Mercer
F24 at Jacksonville St.
F26 at Samford

Independents

BELMONT
National Rank: 314

Coach: Rick Byrd (298-128, 13 seasons; 390-183 overall, 18 seasons).
1998-99 record: 14-13.
Key players: Wes Burtner, F, 6-5/So. (14.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 54.2 FG%, 76.9 FT%); Jeremy Kees, C, 6-8/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 54.3 FG%, 77.0 FT%); Jay Lannin, G, 6-5/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 1.1 spg); Ryan Steger, F, 6-4/Sr. (10.1 ppg); Dougie Webb, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 5.0 apg, 47.7 FG%, 70.7 FT%, 43.1 3-pt%).
Outlook: The Bruins' three-provisional period is over, and they are ready to build on last season's 14-13 mark. They return all five starters and their top 10 scorers, and they boast two newcomers in Omari Booker (6-8), who redshirted last season to bulk up, and their lone signee, freshman center Scotty Blackwell (6-10). The Bruins also will welcome back three players (Tyrus Doss, Jared Karnes and Matt Roberts) who missed last season because of injuries. Belmont hopes to improve on its 23-31 record against Division I teams over the past two seasons.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nashville. **Home court:** Striplin Gym (2,500).

TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
National Rank: 315

Coach: To be announced.
1998-99 record: 5-22.
Key players: John Braxton, F, 6-4/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.6 spg); Kirby Lemons, F, 6-9/So. (13.6 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 53.5 FG%); Brian Merriweather, G, 6-3/Jr. (23.7 ppg, 2.1 spg, 91.4 FT%); Matt Palmquist, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 53.6 FG%).
Outlook: Do you want the good news first or the bad news? Why don't we accentuate the positive—as in Merriweather, the nation's top returning scorer, plus three other returning starters in Braxton, Lemons and Palmquist. Braxton made a strong impact last season and looks to continue to improve, but he will be pushed by a good group of newcomers. Lemons provides a strong presence, and Palmquist is a strong shooter. As for the bad—well, not having a coach, as of late August, can't be good, and the Broncs have lost 59 straight road games.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Edinburg, Texas. **Home court:** UTPA Field House (5,000).

CENTENARY
National Rank: 316

Coach: Kevin Johnson (first year).
1998-99 record: 14-14. TAAC: 8-8/T4th.
Key players: Ronnie McCollum, G, 6-4/Jr. (19.4 ppg, 42.0 3-pt%); Ed Dotson, F, 6-7/Soph. (13.4 ppg, 6.8 rpg); Andre Speed, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Olufemi Odukoya, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Miroslav Ilic, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Marcus Drewry, G, 6-1/Fr.
Outlook: The Gents head into independent play on a slightly positive note -- the team had its first non-losing season since 1993-94. But don't look for that to continue with a tougher independent schedule, which includes four SEC West opponents, than its TAAC schedule last year. First-year coach Kevin Johnson loses three starters from last year's team, but was able to keep his top two -- Ronnie McCollum and Ed Dotson. The first-team All-TAAC McCollum is a deadly shooter, hitting 42 percent from behind the arc last year and hitting 58 consecutive free throws, the third longest in NCAA history, at one point last season. Dotson was named the TAAC Freshman of the Year for his scoring and rebounding prowess. Talent-wise, the Gents may have a better team than last season. But with no conference tournament to gain an automatic bid and an unlikelihood of a 20-plus win season, the team will be left missing the TAAC.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Shreveport, La. **Home court:** Gold Dome (3,000).

SUNY-ALBANY
National Rank: 317

Coach: Scott Hicks (33-22, 2 years; 120-78 overall, 7 years).
1998-99 record: 14-14.
Key players: Will Brand, F, 6-4/So. (14.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 48.1 FG%); Todd Cetnar, G, 6-0/Sr. (16.2 ppg, 1.8 spg, 84.0 FT%, 39.7 3-pt%); Matthew Haggarty, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 1.1 spg) Dave Schloss, C, 6-11/So. (6.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.4 bpg).
Outlook: The Great Danes, competing in their first Division I season, will depend on Brand and Cetnar to carry the load this season. Brand has Division I skills, is a good rebounder and can score facing the basket or with his back to the hoop. Brand needs to improve his ballhandling this season because he will be handling the basketball more. Cetnar is a lefty point guard who is a good scorer. Two freshman guards from Detroit, Sam Hopes (6-2) and Antoine Johnson (6-0), will push for playing time, and Johnson may provide some relief at the point for Cetnar.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home court:** Recreation & Convocation Center (5,000).

SUNY-STONY BROOK
National Rank: 318

Coach: Nick Macarchuk (first year; 310-320 overall, 22 seasons; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1998-99 record: 11-16.
Key players: Ryan McDermott, C, 6-8/Sr. (4.9 ppg, 1.0 bpg, 48.8 FG%); Steve Pratta, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 1.6 spg, 78.3 FT%); Michael Sales, F, 6-9/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg).
Outlook: Sales will be the key for the Seawolves. A starter last season, Sales a big body (240 pounds) and possesses a variety of offensive moves. Pratta and McDermott are the school's other returning starters. Pratta has great quickness and is strong on both ends of the floor. McDermott is strong in transition and a decent rebounder, but he isn't as strong as he should be so he tends to get beat up down low. Recording six or seven victories would be considered a success for the Seawolves in their inaugural Division I season.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Stony Brook, N.Y. **Home court:** USB Sports Complex (5,226).

Independents Schedules

Belmont
N20 Eastern Kentucky
N23 at Vanderbilt
N27 at Austin Peay
N29 Milligan
D1 at Auburn
D4 Hofstra
D6 East Tennessee
D11 Samford
D18 at Butler
D22 Stetson
D28 at Virginia
D30 at Navy
J10 at Valparaiso
J13 at Middle Tennessee
J15 at UNC-Wilmington
J20 at Alabama A&M
J22 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J25 Fisk
J29 Texas-Pan American
F3 Western Kentucky
F5 at Centenary
F7 Valparaiso
F10 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F12 at Texas-Pan American
F14 North Carolina-Wilmington
F19 Centenary
F22 Austin Peay

Centenary
N20 at Nicholls State
N23 Wiley College (Tex.)
N26-27 Univ. of Alabama Tournament
D1 Southern
D4 at Tulane
D8 at Ark.-Little Rock
D11 at Mississippi State
D18 at Louisiana Tech
D21 LSU
D30 Arkansas*
J3 at SW Texas State
J5 at Texas A&M
J8 at Colorado State
J11 Louisiana Tech
J15 at Northwestern St.
J18 Tougaloo (Miss.)
J22 Texas-Pan American
J24 at Tulsa
J29 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J31 at Southern Mississippi
F5 Belmont
F8 at Wichita State
F12 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F15 Ark.-Little Rock
F19 at Belmont
F24 Texas College
F26 at Texas-Pan American
*Little Rock, Ark.

SUNY-Albany
N19-20 at Mohegan Sun Classic
N23 at Maryland-Eastern Shore
N26 Elon
N28 Niagara
D2 Vermont
D4 at Liberty
D7 at Syracuse
D11 at Monmouth
D13 Green Mountain
D29 at Long Beach State
J3 at Wagner
J5 at Harvard
J8 at Lehigh
J12 Maryland-Eastern Shore
J17 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J19 at Delaware State
J21 at SUNY-Stony Brook
J25 Southern Vermont
J29 Dartmouth
F2 at Army
F5 SUNY-Stony Brook
F7 at Lafayette
F14 at Rutgers
F16 Duquesne
F19 Army
F23 at Bucknell
F29 at Colgate

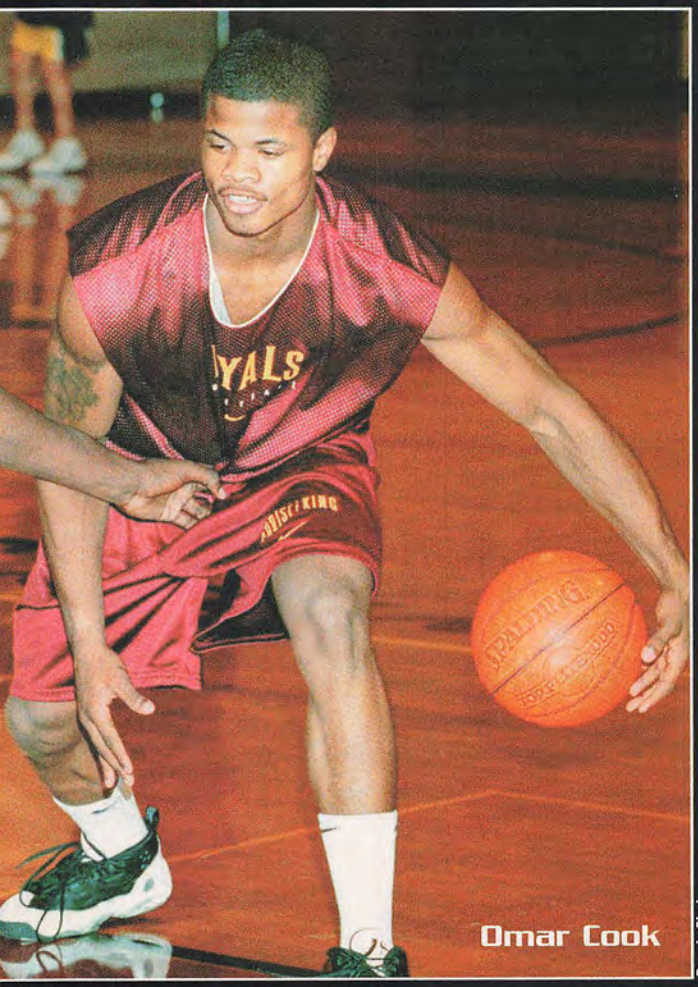
SUNY-Stony Brook
N23 St. John's
N27 at Hofstra
N29 at Utah
D1 Drake
D4 Dowling
D8 Columbia
D11 at Southern Methodist
D13 at Texas-Arlington
D18 College of Charleston
D21 at Wichita State
D23 at Seton Hall
D29-30 Holiday Inn Express Invitational
J3 at Wisconsin-Milwaukee
J7 Rider
J10 at Elon
J12 at High Point
J15 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
J18 at Brown
J21 Albany
J29 Bridgeport
F5 at Albany
F8 at Cornell
F10 Cleveland State
F12 at Navy
F14 Lafayette
F23 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Texas-Pan American
N23 Oral Roberts
N27 Wright State
D1 at Alabama-Birmingham
D6 at Texas-El Paso
D8 at Illinois
D15 at Arkansas
D20 Mary-Hardin-Baylor
D22 Pacific
D29 Northern Iowa
D30 St. Edward's
J3 Rice
J6 at Colorado State
J8 at Gonzaga
J10 Southwestern Louisiana
J13 St. Mary's (San Antonio)
J15 at Oral Roberts
J17 at Southwestern Louisiana
J22 at Centenary
J24 Florida International
J29 at Belmont
F5 at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F7 at Florida International
F12 Belmont
F15 at Colorado
F19 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
F26 Centenary
F28 Washington State
M4 IUPUI

PRIME PROSPECTS

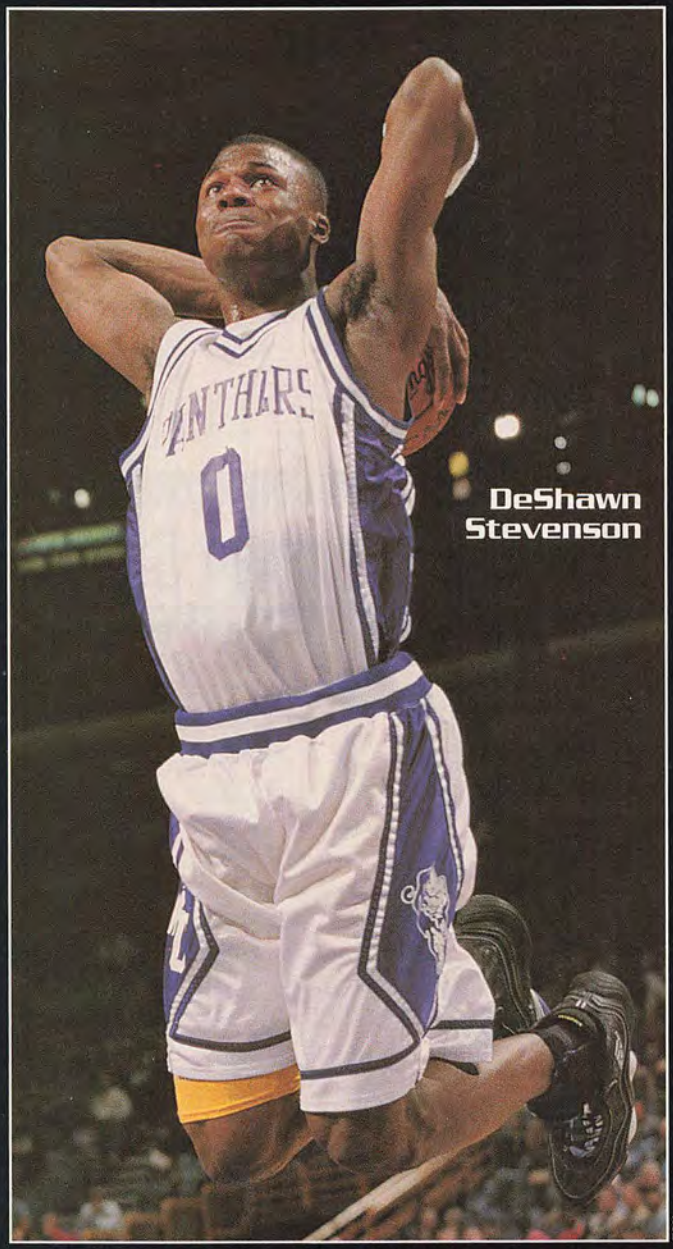
The Sporting News asked four top recruiting analysts to provide lists of the top 100 high school seniors in the nation. We assigned each player a number based on each analyst's ranking (100 points for a No. 1 ranking, 99 for a No. 2 and so on) and came up with this master list. The number that follows each player is each analyst's ranking. KEY: VC—Van Coleman; BO—Brick Oettinger; RU—Recruiting USA; SW—Stephen Wacaser.

Rk.	Name	Ht.	City/High school	VC	BO	RU	SW
1.	Gerald Wallace	6-6	Childersburg, Ala./Childersburg	1	1	1	1
2.	Eddie Griffin	6-9	Philadelphia, Pa./Roman Catholic	2	2	2	2
3.	Marcus Taylor	6-2	Lansing, Mich./Waverly	7	3	3	3
4.	DeShawn Stevenson	6-5	Fresno, Calif./Washington Union	5	5	11	5
5.	Chris Duhon	6-2	Slidell, La./Salmen	4	12	5	6
6.	Jared Jeffries	6-9	Bloomington, Ind./North	3	4	16	4
7.	Jerome Harper	6-6	Limestone, Tenn./Washington Coll. Acad.	9	8	6	8
8.	Darius Miles	6-9	East St. Louis, Ill./East St. Louis	8	10	8	12
9.	Caron Butler	6-6	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute	12	15	4	9
10.	Mario Austin	6-8	York, Ala./Sumpter County	6	14	14	7
11.	Zach Randolph	6-8	Marion, Ind./Marion	10	9	19	10
12.	Omar Cook	6-1	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ the King	14	11	9	15
13.	Alton Ford	6-8	Houston/Milby	11	7	18	14
14.	Andre Brown	6-8	Chicago/Leo	16	18	13	13
15.	Taliek Brown	6-1	Astoria, N.Y./St. John's Prep	15	16	7	22
16.	Rolando Howell	6-8	Hopkins, S.C./Lower Richland	18	13	15	16
17.	Imari Sawyer	6-1	Chicago/Martin Luther King	17	22	10	20
18.	Andre Barrett	5-9	New York/Rice	13	19	27	17
19.	Abdou Diame	6-9	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	21	21	30	19
20.	Travon Bryant	6-8	Long Beach, Calif./Jordan	31	20	28	21
21.	Justin Reed	6-7	Jackson, Miss./Provine	35	26	23	30
22.	Orien Greene	6-5	Gainesville, Fla./Gainesville	29	33	22	31
23.	T.J. Cummings	6-8	Flossmoor, Ill./Homewood-Flossmoor	44	29	21	27
24.	Darius Rice	6-8	Jackson, Miss./Lanier	20	43	34	25
25.	Jason Parker	6-8	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Military Aca.	—	6	12	11
26.	Bernard Robinson	6-5	New Hampton, N.H./New Hampton Prep	40	42	20	29
27.	Marcus Toney-El	6-5	West Orange, N.J./Seton Hall Prep	24	39	55	24
28.	Nick Anderson	6-6	Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab	19	37	48	39
29.	Scott Hazelton	6-8	Lawrence, Mass./Central Catholic	43	31	44	32
30.	Jeff McMillan	6-7	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	23	53	41	35
31.	Garner Meads	6-8	Salt Lake City, Utah/Skyline	25	59	42	26
32.	Ricky Paulding	6-4	Detroit/Renaissance	22	55	45	43
33.	Cliff Hawkins	6-2	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	50	48	24	44
34.	Desmon Farmer	6-4	Flint, Mich./Northwestern	45	28	53	41
35.	Brian Morrison	6-2	Kirkland, Wash./Lake Washington	46	35	31	57
36.	Scooter Sherrill	6-3	Salisbury, N.C./West Rowan	42	17	74	37
37.	Jared Reiner	6-11	Tripp, S.C./Tripp-Delton	27	62	52	34
38.	Chris Wilcox	6-10	Raleigh, N.C./Enloe	54	25	50	49
39.	Demetrius Smith	6-3	Hogansville, Ga./Calloway	36	52	59	38
40.	Adam Boone	6-2	Minnetonka, Minn./Minnetonka	37	79	54	18
41.	Neil Fingleton	7-6	Worcester, Mass./Holy Name	26	38	—	23
42.	Michael Sweetney	6-8	Oxon Hill, Md./Oxon Hill	30	46	67	47
43.	Taurance Johnson	6-9	Williamsport, Pa./Williamsport	58	34	33	67
44.	Ed Starks	6-2	Miami/Northwest Christian	49	56	32	60
45.	Brian Boddicker	6-8	Duncanville, Texas/Duncanville	47	65	43	48
46.	James Thomas	6-7	Milford, Conn./Milford Academy	53	24	—	28
47.	Cedric Banks	6-2	Chicago/Westinghouse	56	40	80	33
48.	Terrance Crawford	6-6	Oklahoma City/Bishop McGuinness	48	64	36	61
49.	Glen Worley	6-6	Iowa City, Iowa/West	33	51	96	36
50.	Kendall Dartez	6-9	Cecilia, La./Cecilia	87	30	49	55
51.	Luke Whitehead	6-6	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	38	73	68	42
52.	Brandon Mouton	6-5	Lafayette, La./St. Thomas More	64	68	37	54
53.	Omar Weaver	6-7	Compton, Calif./Centennial	32	32	—	63
54.	Michael Joiner	6-6	Fayetteville, N.C./71st	60	58	62	52
55.	Modibo Diarra	6-8	Fitchburg, Mass./Notre Dame	41	50	—	46
56.	Matt Lottich	6-3	Winnetka, Ill./New Trier	39	61	—	40
57.	A.J. Moye	6-4	Atlanta/Westlake	61	63	69	50
58.	Arthur Johnson	6-8	Detroit/Pershing	55	36	94	62
59.	Tony Bobbit	6-3	Fork Union, Va./Fork Union Military Aca.	—	23	26	—
60.	Avery Queen	5-7	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central	28	47	—	75
61.	Scooter McFadgon	6-5	Memphis, Tenn./Raleigh-Egypt	94	45	46	72
62.	Luke Ridnour	6-2	Blaine, Wash./Blaine	34	—	65	59
63.	Tory Reed	6-8	Milford, Conn./Milford Academy	—	41	17	—
64.	Marvin Lewis	6-3	Rockville, Md./Montrose Christian	51	67	—	45
65.	Michael Bell	6-8	Raleigh, N.C./Enloe	73	72	58	77
66.	Scott Merritt	6-9	Wauwatosa, Wisc./East	59	82	79	64
67.	Kyle Cuffe	6-8	New York/Rice	63	71	—	51
68.	Dwon Clifton	6-5	High Point, N.C./Westchester	—	75	29	84
69.	Marcus Melvin	6-8	Fayetteville, N.C./Douglas Byrd	71	66	—	53
70.	Andrew Zahn	6-8	Redondo Beach, Calif./Redondo Union	74	60	—	56
71.	JuMichael Young	6-3	Hammond, La./Hammond	95	90	38	70
72.	Corey Valsin	6-5	Port Arthur, Texas/Lincoln	52	76	—	71
73.	Lou Wright	6-5	Memphis, Tenn./Raleigh-Egypt	97	57	76	73
74.	Brett Buscher	6-7	Chesterton, Ind./Chesterton	68	86	95	58
75.	Romain Guessagba-Sato	6-4	Dayton, Ohio/Dayton Christian	65	—	60	85
76.	Omari Westley	6-7	Kensington, Md./Newport Prep	69	80	85	80
77.	Maurice Young	6-5	Forestville, Md./Bishop McNamara	72	94	90	65
78.	Julius Johnson	6-5	Garfield Heights, Ohio/Garfield Heights	79	—	47	96
79.	Herve Lamizana	6-9	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick	—	77	77	68
80.	Rasheed Dunbar	6-3	Bayonne, N.J./Marist	85	—	40	—
81.	Terry Sanders	6-8	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military	—	—	25	—
82.	Derrick Snowden	6-0	Severn, Md./Archbishop Spaulding	81	91	81	76
83.	Derick Payne	6-6	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute	—	27	—	—
84.	Mohammad Diakite	6-9	Rockville, Md./Montrose Christian	83	—	51	98
85.	Jake Sullivan	6-1	Oakdale, Minn./Tartan	67	—	—	66
86.	Jason Edwin	6-5	Warsaw, Ill./Warsaw	66	—	—	69
87.	Jonathan Sanders	6-7	Westminster, Colo./Belleview Christian	—	—	35	—
88.	Nick Smith	7-1	Valrico. Fla./Bloomingdale	—	54	—	83
89.	Jason Carter	6-1	Gary, Ind./Horace Mann	—	—	39	—
90.	Marcus Douthit	6-9	New Britain, Conn./St. Thomas Aquinas	88	—	56	—
91.	Chris Hobbs	6-8	Chapel Hill, N.C./East Chapel Hill	77	97	71	—
92.	J.D. Bracy	6-3	Jacksonville, Fla./Wolfson	—	—	57	88
93.	Patrick Dennehy	6-9	Mountain View, Calif./St. Francis	80	92	—	74
94.	Keith Triplett	6-3	Toledo, Ohio/Bowsher	—	44	—	—
95.	Brandon Crump	6-9	Houston/Klein	76	—	70	—
96.	Billy Richmond	6-5	Memphis, Tenn./Hamilton	—	49	—	—
97.	Blake Stepp	6-3	Eugene, Ore./South	57	—	—	93
98.	Field Williams	6-2	Houston/Waltrip	75	89	—	87
99.	Anthony Anderson	5-11	Lynn, Mass./English	91	—	61	—
100.	Brett Melton	6-5	Mahomet, Ill./Mahomet-Seymour	93	83	—	79



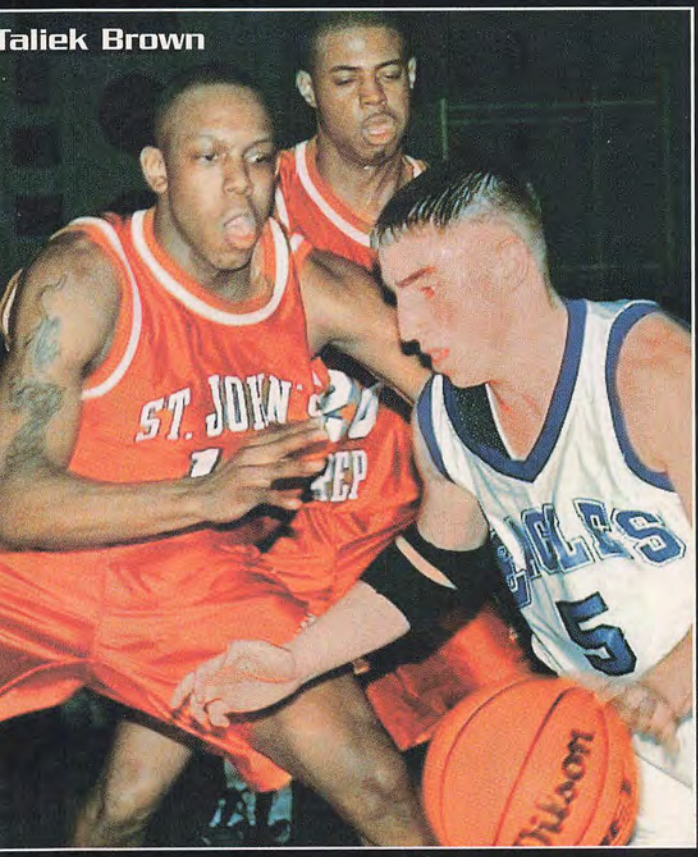
Omar Cook

Dennis Clark



DeShawn Stevenson

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Taliek Brown

KEN SAWCHUK / NEWSDAY

About the Analysts

Van Coleman is publisher of *FutureStars Magazine*. For subscription information, call 1-800-733-6645, or write P.O. Box 350, North Liberty, Iowa 52317.

Brick Oettinger is the recruiting analyst for *Prep Star Recruiter's Handbook* and *ACC Area Sports Journal*. For subscription information, call 1-800-447-7667, or write P.O. Box 4323, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515. You also can read Oettinger at sportingnews.com and prepstars.com **Recruiting USA** is available daily on the Internet (recruitingusa. com) or as a newsletter. Call 1-800-318-9998 for subscription information or to obtain a free sample of the newsletter. Mail inquiries can be directed to: Recruiting USA, P.O. Box 461389, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

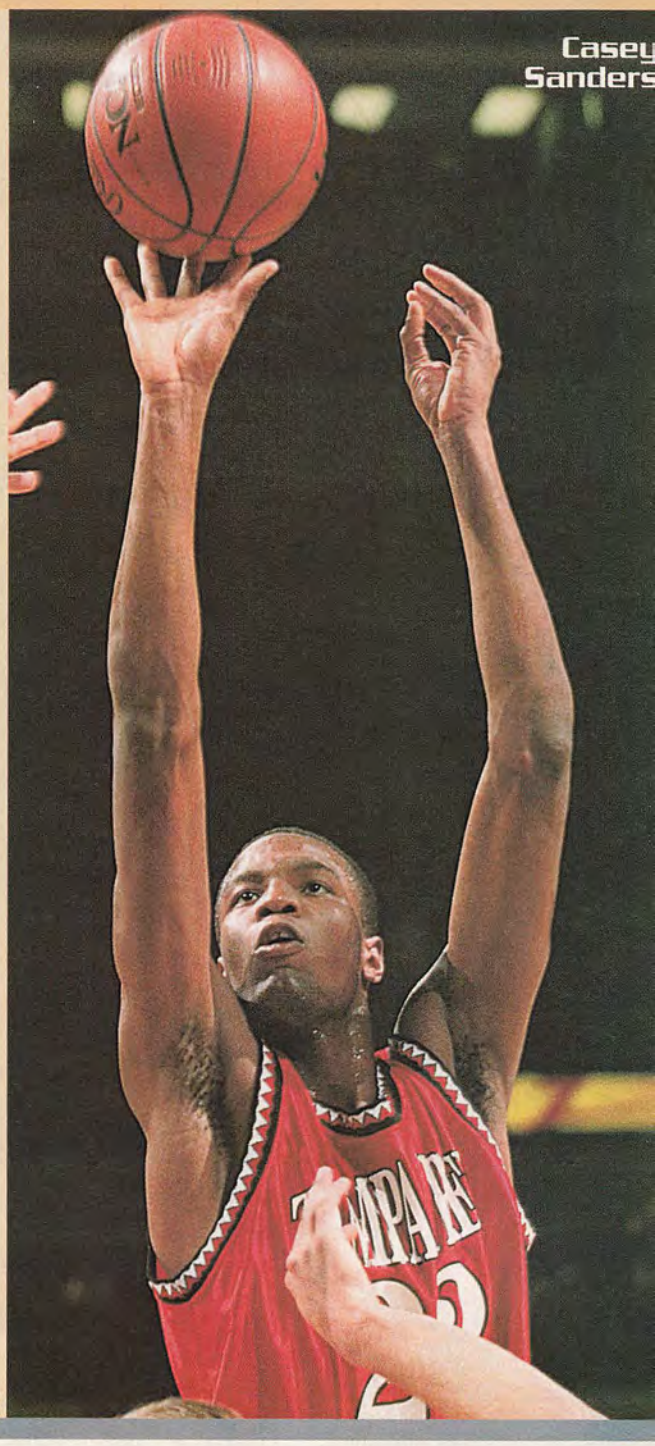
Stephen Wacaser publishes "Assists, Turnovers and Loose Balls," a scouting service for colleges. For information, write 1125 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62704.

Juniors

Rk.	Name	Ht.	City/High school
1.	Dujuan Wagner	6-2	Camden,N.J./Camden
2.	Tyson Chandler	7-0	Compton, Calif./Dominguez
3.	Kelvin Torbert	6-4	Flint, Mich./Northwestern
4.	Eddie Curry	6-9	South Holland, Ill./Thornwood
5.	Apolinar Fernandez	6-9	Lakewood, Calif./Artesia
6.	Ousmane Cisse	6-9	Montgomery, Ala./Catholic
7.	Maurice Williams	6-1	Jackson, Miss./Lanier
8.	Kwame Brown	6-10	Brunswick, Ga./Glynn Academy
9.	Robert Whaley	6-8	Benton Harbor, Mich./Benton Harbor
10.	James White	6-8	Kensington, Md./Newport School
11.	Rashaad Carruth	6-4	Decatur, Ga./Cathedral
12.	Jamal Sampson	6-10	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei
13.	Craig Forth	7-1	East Greenbush, N.Y./Columbia
14.	Chris Thomas	6-3	Indianapolis/Pike
15.	David Harrison	6-11	Nashville, Tenn./Brentwood
16.	Carlos Hurt	6-1	Alief, Texas/Elsik
17.	Greg Tinch	6-5	Albany, Ga./Westover
18.	Jonathan Hargett	6-0	Albany, Ga./Westover
19.	Brandon Bender	6-9	Louisville, Ky./Ballard
20.	Julian Sensley	6-8	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More

Where the Consensus
Top 50 Freshmen Signed

Rk.	Name	Ht.	City/High school	College Choice
1.	DerMarr Johnson	6-9	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central	Cincinnati
2.	Jason Williams	6-2	Metuchen, N.J./St. Joseph's	Duke
3.	Donnell Harvey	6-7	Cuthbert, Ga./Randolph-Clay	Florida
4.	Jason Kapono	6-8	Lakewood, Calif./Artesia	UCLA
5.	LaVell Blanchard	6-7	Ann Arbor, Mich./Pioneer	Michigan
6.	Keith Bogans	6-5	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha	Kentucky
7.	Damien Wilkins	6-6	Orlando, Fla./Dr. Phillips	North Carolina State
8.	Carlos Boozer	6-8	Juneau, Alaska/Douglass	Duke
9.	Kenny Satterfield	6-2	New York/Rice	Cincinnati
10.	Joe Forte	6-4	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha	North Carolina
11.	Casey Jacobsen	6-6	Glendora, Calif.	Stanford
12.	Jason Gardner	5-10	Indianapolis/North Central	Arizona
13.	Marvin Stone	6-9	Huntsville, Ala./Grissom	Kentucky
14.	Jonathan Bender	6-11	Picayune, Miss./Picayune	NBA
15.	Jason Richardson	6-6	Saginaw, Mich./Arthur Hill	Michigan State
16.	Nick Collison	6-9	Iowa Falls, Iowa/Iowa Falls	Kansas
17.	Travis Watson	6-8	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Virginia
18.	Brett Nelson	6-3	St. Albans, W.Va./St. Albans	Florida
19.	Brian Cook	6-10	Lincoln, Ill./Lincoln	Illinois
20.	Leon Smith	6-11	Chicago/Martin Luther King	NBA
21.	Kevin Gaines	6-3	Las Vegas, Nev./Clark	Michigan
22.	Tony Robertson	6-0	Barrington, R.I./St. Andrew's	Connecticut
23.	Kareem Rush	6-5	Kansas City, Mo./Pembroke Hill	Missouri
24.	Roderick Grizzard	6-6	Birmingham, Ala./Central Park Christian	Alabama
25.	Andrew Gooden	6-9	El Cerrito, Calif.	Kansas
26.	Samuel Dalembert	6-11	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick's	Seton Hall
27.	Ronald Blackshear	6-5	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Academy	Clemson
28.	Mike Dunleavy, Jr.	6-7	Portland, Ore./Jesuit	Duke
29.	Joe Johnson	6-6	Little Rock, Ark./Central	Arkansas
30.	Ronald Slay	6-8	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Tennessee
31.	Casey Sanders	6-11	Tampa, Fla./Tampa Prep	Duke
32.	Marshall Williams	6-5	Milwaukee, Wis./Vincent	North Carolina St.
33.	Chuck Edison	6-8	Summerville, S.C./Pinewood Prep	South Carolina
34.	Donnell Knight	6-8	Tempe, Ariz./Corona del Sol	Arizona State
35.	Derek Payne	6-5	Washington, D.C./Coolidge	Southern



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Sophomores

Rk.	Name	Ht.	City/High school
1.	Antonio Lawrence	6-4	Jacksonville, Fla./Jackson
2.	Matt Trannon	6-4	Flint, Mich./Northern
3.	Anthony Roberson	6-0	Saginaw, Mich./Saginaw
4.	DeAngelo Collins	6-9	Inglewood, Calif./Inglewood
5.	Bryan Hopkins	5-10	Dallas/Lincoln
6.	Sean Dockery	6-2	Chicago/Julian
7.	Sheldon Williams	6-8	Midwest City, Okla./Midwest City
8.	Lawrence Carrier	6-6	Redlands, Calif./Redlands
9.	Chad Moore	6-2	Huntsville, Ala./Lee
10.	Michael Thompson	6-10	New Lenox, Ill./Providence Catholic



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Rk.	Name	Ht.	City/High school	College Choice
36.	Roger Mason	6-4	Wheaton, Md./Good Counsel	Virginia
37.	Doug Wrenn	6-6	Milford, Conn./Milford Prep	Connecticut
38.	Majestic Mapp	6-1	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's	Virginia
39.	Brian Wethers	6-5	Murrieta, Calif./Murrieta Valley	California
40.	George Williams	6-8	Missouri City, Texas/Elkins	Houston
41.	Reese Gaines	6-4	Madison, Wis./West	Louisville
42.	Ezra Williams	6-5	Marietta, Ga./Marietta	Georgia
43.	Matt Bonner	6-9	Concord, N.H./Concord	Florida
44.	Jamal Crawford	6-4	Seattle/Rainier Beach	Michigan
45.	Steve Hunter	6-11	Maywood, Ill./Proviso East	DePaul
46.	Julian Swartz	6-6	Waukesha, Wis./South	Wisconsin
47.	Wesley Wilson	6-11	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute	Georgetown
48.	Hollis Price	6-1	New Orleans/St. Augustine	Oklahoma
49.	Clifford Crawford	6-3	Winston-Salem, N.C./Parkland	North Carolina State
50.	Marcus Cox	6-3	Bridgeport, Conn./Kolbe Cathedral	Connecticut

Junior-College Lists

By Rick Ball, Ballstars J.C. Camps

Top Junior-College Sophomores

Point Guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Junior College
1.	Kerwin Fleming	6-3	Kennedy-King (Ill.)
2.	Maurice Baker	6-0	Dixie College (Utah)
3.	Deon Green	6-1	Los Angeles City College
4.	Robert Yanders	5-11	Southwest Missouri State
5.	Lincoln Glass	5-10	Lincoln Trail (Ill.)
6.	Fredie Williams	6-1	Mississippi Delta

Off-Guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Junior College
1.	Immanuel McElroy	6-4	Tyler (Texas)
2.	Joe Gordon	6-2	Brevard (Fla.)
3.	Antonio Henderson	6-2	Atlanta Metro (Ga.)
4.	Jannero Pargo	6-1	Neosho County (Kan.)
5.	Clinton Sims	6-3	St. Catharince (Ky.)
6.	Jeremy Brown	6-4	Scottsdale (Ariz.)

Small Forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Junior College
1.	Corey Hightower	6-8	Indian Hills (Iowa)
2.	Eric Batchelor	6-7	Northeast (Miss.)
3.	Antwan Jones	6-8	Tallahassee (Fla.)
4.	Joey Range	6-6	Hutchinson (Kan.)
5.	Cedric Taylor	6-7	San Jacinto (Texas)
6.	John Grice	6-7	Shelby State (Tenn.)

Power Forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Junior College
1.	Cam Stephens	6-7	Vincennes (Ind.)
2.	Reggie Evans	6-7	Coffeyville (Kan.)
3.	Randy Holcomb	6-8	Los Angeles City
4.	Jamaal Davis	6-7	Barton County (Kan.)
5.	Deltorio Campbell	6-6	Northeast (Miss.)
6.	Thomas Terrell	6-7	Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.)

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Junior College
1.	Earnest Brown	7-0	Indian Hills (Iowa)
2.	Melik Yavasner	6-11	Hill (Texas)
3.	Paulo Rower	7-1	Arizona Western
4.	Uche Amadi	6-10	Indian Hills (Iowa)
5.	Octave Morariu	7-1	Trinity Valley (Texas)
6.	Xavier Morton	6-9	Georgia Perimeter

Moving On...

Where last year's top JC players signed

Junior College

Point Guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1.	Antonio Jackson	6-5	Mississippi State	Butler County (Kan.)
2.	Mike Garrett	6-1	UNLV	Fresno City (Calif.)
3.	D.J. Wootson	5-11	Georgia State	Cecil (Maryland)
4.	Larry Allaway	5-11	Texas Christian	Howard (Texas)
5.	Jamie Rosser	6-2	Arkansas St.	Northeast (Miss.)
6.	Trent Whiting	6-1	Utah	Snow (Utah)

Off-Guards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1.	Paul McPherson	6-3	DePaul	Kennedy-King (Ill.)
2.	Jamaal Tinsley	6-2	Iowa State	Mt. San Jacinto (Calif).
3.	Lawrence Williams	6-1	Texas	Panola (Texas)
4.	Anthony Norwood	6-2	Oregon	Collin County (Texas)
5.	Marlon Dawson	6-1	South Florida	Okaloosa (Fla.)
6.	Lamont Frazier	6-4	Arizona	Lon Morris (Texas)

Small Forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1.	Terry Black	6-6	Baylor	Indian Hills (Iowa)
2.	Rob Griffin	6-6	Iowa	Southeastern (Iowa)
3.	Lamont Roland	6-4	Louisiana State	Barton County (Kan.)
4.	Richard Evans	6-4	Iowa State	Kilgore (Texas)
5.	Michael Hicks	6-4	Texas A&M	Bacone (Okla.)
6.	James Zimmerman	6-5	UNC-Charlotte	Indian Hills (Iowa)

Power Forwards

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1.	Marcus Griffin	6-9	Illinois	Lincoln (Ill.)
2.	James Williams	6-9	Long Beach State	Dixie (Utah)
3.	Tyrone Evans	6-7	Washington State	Garden City (Kan.)
4.	Anthony Evans	6-7	Georgia	Neosho County (Kan.)
5.	KenKay Jones	6-8	UNC-Charlotte	Southwest Missouri State
6.	Stephon Bradford	6-6	Nebraska	Compton (Calif.)

Centers

Rk.	Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1.	Nate Knight	6-9	Kentucky	Utah Valley State
2.	Lee Scruggs	6-11	Georgetown	Daytona Beach (Fla.)
3.	Tajudeen Soyoye	6-9	Missouri	Meridian (Miss.)
4.	Julius Hicks	6-9	Oregon	West Valley (Calif.)
5.	Kevin Robinson	6-10	Arkansas	Butler County (Kan.)
6.	David Murray	6-10	Providence	Mesa (Ariz.)

Rating the transfers

Best scorer: Jamaal Tinsley.
Best passer under 6-5: Trent Whiting.
Best passer over 6-5: Antonio Jackson.
Best rebounder: Terry Black.
Most creative scorer: Lamont Roland.
Most overrated: Stephon Bradford.
Biggest sleeper: Stan Blackmon, 6-5, Odessa (Texas) to Arkansas-Little Rock.
Best catch: D.J. Wootson.
Best shot blocker: Lee Scruggs.
Best leaper: Paul McPherson.
Best ballhandler: Bernard Barrow, 5-9, Kilgore (Texas) to George Washington.
Best field-goal shooter: Rob Griffin.
Best free throw shooter: Travis Lewis, 6-0, Southeastern (Iowa) (84%) to Louisiana Tech.
Best 3-point shooter: Ben Schifferer, 6-5, Highland (Ill.) (53%) to Florida International.
Best defender: Roy Boone, 6-2, Coffeyville (Kan.) to Wisconsin.
Highest draft choice: Alek Radojevic, 7-3, Barton County (Kan.) to Toronto Raptors.

1999 NCAA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

First Round
Auburn 80, Winthrop 41
Oklahoma State 69, Syracuse 61
Detroit 56, UCLA 53
Ohio State 72, Murray State 58
Indiana 108, George Washington 88
St. John's 69, Samford 43
Creighton 62, Louisville 58
Maryland 82, Valparaiso 60
Connecticut 91, Texas-San Antonio 66
New Mexico 61, Missouri 59
Iowa 77, UAB 64
Arkansas 94, Siena 80
Florida 75, Pennsylvania 61
Weber State 76, North Carolina 74
Gonzaga 75, Minnesota 63
Stanford 69, Alcorn State 57
Duke 99, Florida A&M 58
Tulsa 62, College of Charleston 53
Southwest Missouri State 43, Wisconsin 32
Tennessee 62, Delaware 52
Temple 61, Kent 54
Cincinnati 72, George Mason 48
Purdue 58, Texas 54
Miami (Fla.) 75, Lafayette 54
Michigan State 76, Mount St. Mary's 53
Mississippi 72, Villanova 70
UNC Charlotte 81, Rhode Island 70 (OT)
Oklahoma 61, Arizona 60
Kansas 95, Evansville 74
Kentucky 82, New Mexico State 60
Miami (Ohio) 59, Washington 58
Utah 80, Arkansas State 58

Second Round
Auburn 81, Oklahoma State 74
Ohio State 75, Detroit 44
St. John's 86, Indiana 61
Maryland 75, Creighton 63
Connecticut 78, New Mexico 56
Iowa 82, Arkansas 72
Florida 82, Weber State 74 OT
Gonzaga 82, Stanford 74
Duke 97, Tulsa 56
Southwest Missouri Sate 81, Tennessee 51
Temple 64, Cincinnati 54
Purdue 73, Miami (Fla.) 63
Michigan State 74, Mississippi 66
Oklahoma 85, UNC Charlotte 72
Kentucky 92, Kansas 88 (OT)
Miami (Ohio) 66, Utah 58

Regional Semifinals
Ohio State 72, Auburn 64
St. John's 76, Maryland 62
Connecticut 78, Iowa 76
Gonzaga 73, Florida 72
Duke 78, Southwest Missouri State 61
Temple 77, Purdue 55
Michigan State 54, Oklahoma 46
Kentucky 58, Miami (Ohio) 43

Regional Finals
Ohio State 77, St. John's 74
Connecticut 67, Gonzaga 62
Duke 85, Temple 64
Michigan State 73, Kentucky 66

Final Four/national semifinals
Connecticut 64, Ohio State 58
Duke 68, Michigan State 62

Championship
Connecticut 77, Duke 74

2000 NCAA TOURNAMENT

First and second rounds

East Region
March 17 and 19
Marine Midland Arena, Buffalo, N.Y.
Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Winston-Salem, N.C.

South Region
March 17 and 19
Nashville Arena, Nashville, Tenn.
Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center, Birmingham, Ala.

Midwest Region
March 16 and 18
Cleveland State University Convocation Center, Cleveland
Metrodome, Minneapolis

West Region
March 16 and 18
Huntsman Center, Salt Lake City, Utah
McKale Center, Tucson, Ariz.

Regionals

East
March 24 and 26
Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y.

South
March 24 and 26
Frank Erwin Center, Austin, Texas

Midwest
March 23 and 25
The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich.

West
March 23 and 25
University Arena, Albuquerque, N.M.

Final Four
RCA Dome, Indianapolis
Semifinals, April 1
Final, April 3

Future Final Four sites
2001: Metrodome, Minneapolis
2002: Georgia Dome, Atlanta
2003: Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
2004: Alamodome, San Antonio

1999-2000 IN-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

November 11-12 IKON Coaches vs. Cancer Classic (New York City)
Duke vs. Stanford, Iowa vs. Connecticut.

November 12-13 NABC Classic (Syracuse, N.Y.)
Syracuse* vs. Princeton, Missouri vs. Wisconsin.

November 16-26 Preseason NIT (First- and second-round games to be played at campus sites; semifinals and finals to be played in New York City)
Arkansas State at Utah, Davidson at Siena, Fordham at Tulane, Hofstra at New Mexico State, Kansas State at Arizona, Notre Dame at Ohio State, Pennsylvania at Kentucky, San Francisco at Maryland.

November 18-21 Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska)
Alaska-Fairbanks* vs. Houston, California vs. Texas Christian, George Washington vs. Indiana State, Montana State vs. Oklahoma.

November 19-20 Battle of Baltimore (Baltimore)
Coppin State* vs. Md.-Baltimore County, Loyola (Md.) vs. Towson State.

November 19-20 CoSIDA Classic (Albuquerque)
New Mexico* vs. Dayton, St. John's vs. Samford.

November 19-20 Florida International Tip-off Tour (Miami)
Florida International*, Boston University, Northern Illinois, Radford.

November 19-20 Mohegan Sun Classic (New Britain, Conn.)
Albany, Central Connecticut State, Colgate, Dartmouth.

November 19-20 Pepsi-Marist Tournament (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)
Marist* vs. Delaware State, Bucknell vs. Maine.

November 19-21 VoiceStream Wireless Challenge (Honolulu)
Hawaii*, Bowling Green, Jackson State, UT-Martin.

November 22-24 Maui Classic (Maui, Hawaii)
Chaminade* vs. Purdue, Florida vs. Utah State, Georgetown vs. Memphis, North Carolina vs. Southern California.

November 24-26 Coaches vs. Cancer Challenge (Hartford, Conn.)
Connecticut* vs. Kentucky, Clemson vs. Old Dominion.

November 24-27 Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage, Alaska)
Alaska-Anchorage* vs. Washington, Georgia vs. Kansas, Georgia Tech vs. Grambling, Louisville vs. Xavier.

November 25-27 Puerto Rico Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
American, Arizona State, DePaul, Michigan State, Providence, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia.

November 25-28 Hawaii Pacific Thanksgiving Classic (Honolulu)
Hawaii Pacific*, Florida International, Fresno State, Louisiana State, Oakland, Southwest Missouri State, Toledo, Wyoming.

November 26-27 Alabama Tournament (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)
Alabama*, Centenary, High Point, La Salle.

November 26-27 Lobo Classic (Albuquerque, N.M.)
New Mexico*, Alcorn State, Sam Houston State, UT-Chattanooga.

November 26-27 Sooner Holiday Classic (Norman, Okla.)
Oklahoma* vs. San Diego, UC Irvine vs. Southwest Texas State.

November 26-28 Big Island Invitational (Hilo, Hawaii)
Hawaii-Hilo* vs. Iowa State, Arkansas vs. Mercer, Cincinnati vs. Cleveland State, Rhode Island vs. Santa Clara.

November 26-28 Hoop & Quill Classic (St. Charles, Mo.)
Evansville vs. Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State vs. Murray State, Nebraska vs. Northwestern, Rutgers vs. Valparaiso.

November 26-28 SoCal Holiday Tournament (Greenville, S.C.)
South Carolina State* vs. Oregon State, Old Dominion vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, Mississippi vs. Furman, Clemson vs. Central Florida.

November 26-28 United Airlines Tip-Off Tournament (Honolulu)
Hawaii* vs. William & Mary, Oral Roberts vs. Virginia Military.

November 27-28 Sparkletts Invitational (Malibu, Calif.)
Pepperdine* vs. UNC-Charlotte, Colorado State vs. St. Bonaventure.

December 3-4 Ameritas Classic (Lincoln, Neb.)
Nebraska* vs. Western Carolina, Columbia vs. Monmouth.

December 3-4 Carrier Classic (Syracuse, N.Y.)
Syracuse*, Long Beach State, Richmond, St. Joseph's.

December 3-4 First Merchants Classic (Muncie, Ind.)
Ball State* vs. Cornell, Troy State vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay.

December 3-4 Food Lion Classic (Charlotte, N.C.)
North Carolina* vs. College of Charleston, Princeton vs. UNLV.

December 3-4 Hawkeye Invitational (Iowa City, Iowa)
Iowa* vs. Texas Southern, Houston vs. Ohio.

December 3-4 Marquette Classic (Milwaukee)
Marquette*, Appalachian State, Toledo, Western Michigan.

December 3-4 Northwestern Mutual Classic (San Francisco)
San Francisco* vs. Indiana-Purdue, The Citadel vs. Sacramento State.

December 3-4 Norwest Cyclone Challenge (Ames, Iowa)
Iowa State*, Mississippi Valley State, Montana State, Sam Houston State.

December 3-4 Pizza Hut Classic (Springfield, Mo.)
Southwest Missouri State* vs. Western Illinois, Maryland-Eastern Shore vs. Southern Methodist.

December 3-4 Spartan Coca-Cola Classic (East Lansing, Mich.)
Michigan State*, Eastern Michigan, Howard, Loyola of Chicago.

December 4-5 BB+T Classic (Washington, D.C.)
George Washington* vs. Seton Hall, Illinois vs. Maryland.

December 4-5 PowerBar Invitational (Honolulu)
Hawaii* vs. Prairie View A&M, Pacific vs. Tennessee State.

December 10-11 Coca-Cola Classic (Missoula, Mont.)
Montana*, Idaho, Robert Morris, Southeast Missouri State.

December 10-11 Cougar Classic (Provo, Utah)
BYU*, Texas Southern, Weber State, Western Oregon.

December 10-11 Indiana Classic (Bloomington, Ind.)
Indiana* vs. Buffalo, Indiana State vs. North Texas.

December 16-17 Coors Classic (Mobile, Ala.)
South Alabama* vs. Murray State, Auburn vs. Bradley.

December 20-22 San Juan Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez*, Auburn, Detroit, Illinois State, Miami (Fla.), Pepperdine, Southwestern Louisiana, Virginia Tech.

December 21-22 Coors Light Classic (Fresno, Calif.)
Fresno State*, Cornell, Norfolk State, Wagner.

December 21-22 Tribune Holiday Classic (Ames, Iowa)
Iowa State* vs. Idaho State, Samford vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

December 21-23 Pearl Harbor Classic (Laie, Hawaii)
BYU-Hawaii* vs. San Jose State, The Citadel vs. South Florida, Colorado State vs. Florida A&M, Maine vs. UCLA.

December 21-23 Puerto Rico Classic (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
American U.-Puerto Rico*, Boston College, Illinois-Chicago, Massachusetts, UNC-Charlotte, Southern Illinois, Tennessee, Tulsa.

December 27-28 ECAC Holiday Festival (New York City)
Fordham, Hofstra, Rutgers, Siena.

December 27-28 Hoosier Classic (Bloomington, Ind.)
Indiana*, Canisius, Holy Cross, UAB.

December 27-28 Sierra Providence SunClassic (El Paso, Texas)
UTEP*, Kent, Murray State, Rhode Island.

December 27-30 Outriggers Hotel Rainbow Classic (Honolulu)
Hawaii* vs. Bradley, Colorado vs. Villanova, Gonzaga vs. Ohio, Oregon vs. Wake Forest.

December 28-29 Capital City Classic (Tallahassee, Fla.)
Florida A&M*, Georgia Southern, Stetson, Weber State.

December 28-29 Fiesta Bowl Holiday Classic (Tempe, Ariz.)
Arizona State*, Bucknell, Manhattan, Penn State.

December 28-29 Golden Bear Classic (Berkeley, Calif.)
California*, Boston University, Pennsylvania, Portland State.

December 28-29 Gossner Foods Classic (Logan, Utah)
Utah State*, Idaho State, Mercer, San Diego.

December 28-29 State Farm Classic (Charleston, S.C.)
College of Charleston* vs. Hampton, Charleston Southern vs. Tennessee Tech.

December 28-30 Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic (Tucson, Ariz.)
Arizona* vs. UNC-Wilmington, Alabama vs. Delaware.

December 29-30 All-College Tournament (Oklahoma City)
Oklahoma* vs. Mount St. Mary's, Arkansas State vs. Valparaiso.

December 29-30 Bobcat Holiday Classic (Bozeman, Mont.)
Montana State* vs. Idaho, Alaska-Fairbanks vs. Mississippi State.

December 29-30 Cable Car Classic (Santa Clara, Calif.)
Santa Clara*, La Salle, Mississippi State, Texas A&M.

December 29-30 Dr Pepper Classic (Chattanooga, Tenn.)
UT-Chattanooga* vs. Radford, Tennessee State vs. Youngstown State.

December 29-30 Jones Intercable Lobo Invitational (Albuquerque)
New Mexico*, Alabama State, Lafayette, St. Joseph's.

December 29-30 Oneida Bingo and Casino Classic (Green Bay, Wis.)
Wisconsin-Green Bay*, Austin Peay, Drexel, Western Kentucky.

December 29-30 Stanford Invitational (Palo Alto, Calif.)
Stanford*, Columbia, Davidson, New Hampshire.

December 29-30 Stony Brook Tournament (Stony Brook, N.Y.)
Stony Brook*, Army, Long Island, Maine.

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CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

League	Dates	Site
America East	March 3-5; March 11	Newark, Del.
Atlantic Coast	March 9-12	Charlotte, N.C.
Atlantic 10	March 8-11	Philadelphia
Big East	March 8-11	New York
Big Sky	March 9-11	To be determined*
Big South	March 1-4	Asheville, N.C.
Big Ten	March 9-12	Chicago
Big 12	March 9-12	Kansas City, Mo.
Big West	March 9-11	Reno, Nev.
Colonial Athletic	March 3-6	Richmond, Va.
Conference USA	March 8-11	Memphis, Tenn.
Metro Atlantic	February 27-29; March 1	Albany, N.Y.
Mid-American	March 2; March 5-6; March 8	Cleveland
Mid-Continent	March 5-7	Fort Wayne, Ind.
Mid-Eastern Athletic	March 6-11	Richmond, Va.
Midwestern Collegiate	March 4-5; March 7	Chicago
Missouri Valley	March 3-6	St. Louis
Mountain West	March 9-11	Las Vegas, Nev.
Northeast	March 3-4; March 6	Trenton, N.J.
Ohio Valley	February 29; March 4-5	Nashville
Patriot	March 4-5; March 9	To be determined*
Southeastern	March 9-12	Atlanta
Southern	March 2-5	Greenville, S.C.
Southland	March 8-11	Shreveport, La.
Southwestern Athletic	March 8-11	Biloxi, Miss.
Sun Belt	March 7-9	Little Rock, Ark.
Trans America Athletic	March 1-4	Jacksonville, Fla.
West Coast	March 9-11	Fresno, Calif.
Western Athletic	March 4-6	Santa Clara, Calif.

*At site of regular-season champion



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OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

ENTRIES

Final Deadline: All mailed entries must be postmarked by 12 midnight CT November 1, 1999, and received by November 5, 1999. All faxed, phone and Internet entries must be received by 5:30 CT November 2, 1999. Mail your entry to 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge, P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX 75014. The Sporting News ("TSN") and Prime Sports Interactive ("PSI") take no responsibility for misdirected entries or entries that are lost or damaged in the mail or for entries lost, damaged, or not legible because of poor fax transmission. PSI and TSN reserve the right to disqualify any entry form that has been incorrectly completed or is not completely legible. Only 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge entry forms or copies are allowed. Each entry will be placed into a 25-team league and a 300 team division. You may form your own league or play with friends by sending up to 25 entries in the same envelope. If less than 25 entries are submitted in the same envelope, the league will be filled with other contestants. All entries, up to 25, received in one envelope will be placed in the same league unless you call a Fantasy Sports Consultant before November 2, 1999, to request placement in separate leagues. Entries not sent in the same envelope with a note requesting placement in the same league are not guaranteed to be placed in the same league. All entries, along with all copyright, trademark and other proprietary rights and goodwill associated therewith, become the property of PSI and TSN upon submission, and will not be returned to any entrant. TSN/Prime reserves the right to cancel The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge if the minimum participant projection is not met. TSN/Prime may cancel the challenge on or before October 26, 1999. If TSN/Prime elects to cancel the challenge, all participants registered and paid as of October 26, 1999 will receive total refunds. Refunds will be provided in the form of a check and be mailed to the address provided within 6-8 weeks.

ROSTERS

Your roster must consist of a total of 22 Players, 13 Active Roster players, and 9 Bench reserves. The Active Roster and Bench must consist of players listed on the official roster (included in the official Manager's Kit). Additional players will be added to the official roster if necessary. 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge will begin on November 2, 1999, with the beginning of the National Basketball Association's regular season, and will conclude on April 19, 1999. All dates are subject to change. If for any reason, games are re-scheduled after April 19, 1999, those statistics will not be included in the totals. All game weeks will run from Monday through Sunday. Statistics for postponed games will be counted in the weeks when the games are actually played. Any player not listed in the official Manager's Kit may be added. To add a player not listed, speak to a Fantasy Sports Consultant. If the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge advisory board approves the player, the player will be available for trading within two business days of such approval. The complete roster listed in the Manager's Kit is as of July 22, 1999. Player positions and salaries, once established by PSI and TSN, will not change for the duration of 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge.

ENTRY FEE

An entry fee of $39.95 if postmarked by September 27, 1999, $49.95 if postmarked after September 27, 1999, but by October 18, 1999, or $59.95 if postmarked after October 18, 1999, but by November 1, 1999, funds your 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge Manager's Kit, confirmation report, mailed reports, weekly audio reports with scores and rankings, placement in a 25-team league, and the ability to purchase trades and reports through the automated phone system, Internet, or a live Fantasy Sports Consultant. Additional Manager's Kits may be purchased for $10 throughout the season. Do not send cash. Make check or money order payable to "TSN Fantasy Challenges." Entries mailed with insufficient funds or information may be disqualified and will not be processed until correct amount of payment or information is received. No league placement changes will be made after the first rankings have been calculated. All fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. For information on playing for free, see the ALTERNATIVE ENTRY-NO ENTRY FEE NECESSARY section below.

TRADING PLAYERS

Any of your 22 players may be traded through the Interactive Commissioner (by telephone, Internet access, or live Fantasy Sports Consultant) at the costs and limits explained as follows. Each Bench Trade ($2.50 each), being defined as moving one player from your Active Roster to your Bench and moving another player from your Bench to the Active Roster to take his place. Each New Player Purchase for Your Active Roster ($7.50 each), being defined as replacing a player on your Active Roster with one who is not currently on your Bench. New Player Purchase for Your Bench Roster ($5.00), being defined as replacing a player on your Bench with one who is not currently on your Active Roster. A player MUST be traded for another player at the SAME position (e.g., a center for a center, etc.). Players shall be traded only if the Active Roster salary value after all trades have been completed does NOT exceed the $30,000,000 salary cap. Players may be traded each week from Monday at 8:00 am CT until 12 midnight CT on Sunday. If for any reason PSI and/or TSN experiences technical difficulty with the Interactive Commissioner, changes to the rosters will not be taken until the Interactive Commissioner is re-opened. We recommend that you call at least 3 hours before the trading deadline. Waiting until the deadline to trade could result in rejection of your trades. No trades will be allowed between 12 midnight CT on Sunday and 8:00 a.m. CT on Monday. All approved trades are final. Only alternative entry trades will be accepted through the mail. Four "Free Agents" will be listed each week in The Sporting News and may be purchased for your team during that week for the special price of $1.00 per Free Agent. Each team may purchase only three Free Agents over the course of the season. Bench Trades are unlimited. New Player Purchases for Your Active Roster, New Player Purchases for Your Bench, and Free Agent purchases are limited to a combined total of seven over the course of the season.

SCORING

Your total team score will be available through the Interactive Commissioner phone system or Internet site each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. CT, beginning Tuesday, November 9,1999. Points are awarded based on the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge scoring system. Scoring is calculated weekly running Monday through Sunday. Week one will run Tuesday through Sunday. Week 23 will run Monday through Friday. Scoring is based only on the games actually played each week. If, for any reason, a player's game is postponed (due to weather, etc.) you will only receive points for that game if you have the player on your roster the day the game is officially completed. Each team in the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge will be ranked within its League, Division and Overall in eleven statistical categories: Total, 3 Point Field Goals Made, 2 Point Field Goals Made, Offensive Rebounds, Turnovers (Negative), Free Throws Made, Assists, Defensive Rebounds, Steals, Blocks, Personal Fouls (Negative).

In each of the eleven categories listed above, teams are ranked weekly from first to last and points are assigned based on these rankings. The top team in each League within each category shall receive 25 points, the second highest team in each category will receive 24 points and so forth down to the last ranking team in each League within each category which will receive 1 point. This ranking system is done for each of the eleven categories above so that the maximum points a team could earn in a League in one week would be 275 points (25 points for each of the 11 categories). Ties within a category will be resolved by averaging the ranking points of the tied teams. Teams are ranked in a similar fashion on the Division and Overall level to establish their Divisional and Overall rankings each week and at season end. Division points are calculated by ranking your team's totals for the eleven statistical categories against every other team in your 300 team Division and Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's totals for the eleven statistical categories against all other entries in the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge.

Stat Weeks (Game Weeks) for the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge begin on Monday at 8 am CT and end at 12 midnight CT on Sunday. Only the statistics of players on your Active Roster for games played while on your Active Roster are included in your team's totals. The statistics of Bench players do not count! Statistics achieved by a player prior to being moved to your Active Roster do not contribute to your teams' statistical totals, nor do the statistics earned by a previous starting player count after such player is dropped from your team or moved to the Bench. Pre-season and Post-season statistics also do not count.

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The Sporting News

1999 FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

OFFICIAL ROSTER

All Salaries are in 000's

ID #	Name	Pos.	Team	Salary
CENTERS				
1100	Oneal, Shaquille	C	LAL	4290
1101	Robinson, David	C	SAS	4250
1102	Olajuwon, Hakeem	C	HOU	4160
1103	Mourning, Alonzo	C	MIA	4030
1104	Divac, Vlade	C	SAC	4010
1105	Sabonis, Arvydas	C	POR	3150
1106	Mutombo, Dikembe	C	ATL	3090
1107	Campbell, Elden	C	CHA	2700
1108	Ewing, Patrick	C	NYK	2560
1109	Austin, Isaac	C	ORL	2340
1110	Geiger, Matt	C	PHI	2230
1111	Williams, Jayson	C	NJN	2130
1112	Dampier, Erick	C	GSW	1920
1113	Bradley, Shawn	C	DAL	1900
1114	Smits, Rik	C	IND	1870
1115	Thorpe, Otis	C	WAS	1850
1116	Willis, Kevin	C	TOR	1850
1117	Ilgauskas, Zydrunas	C	CLE	1800
1118	Ostertag, Greg	C	UTH	1750
1119	Potapenko, Vitaly	C	BOS	1680
1120	Battie, Tony	C	BOS	1600
1121	Declercq, Andrew	C	CLE	1580
1122	Reeves, Bryant	C	VAN	1520
1123	Dele, Bison	C	DET	1510
1124	Polynice, Olden	C	SEA	1350
1125	Garrett, Dean	C	MIN	1310
1126	Johnson, Ervin	C	MIL	1280
1127	Olowokandi, Michael	C	LAC	1250
1128	Seikaly, Rony	C	NJN	1230
1129	Longley, Luc	C	PHO	1120
1130	Cato, Kelvin	C	POR	1090
1131	Parks, Cherokee	C	VAN	1030
1132	Lafrentz, Raef	C	DEN	1020
1133	Radojevic, Alek	C	TOR	1000
1134	Miller, Brad	C	CHA	960
1135	Doleac, Michael	C	ORL	950
1136	Muresan, Gheorghe	C	NJN	900
1137	Weis, Frederic	C	NYK	900
1138	Foyle, Adonal	C	GSW	750
1139	Williams, Hot Rod	C	DAL	640
1140	Montross, Eric	C	DET	610
1141	Eschmeyer, Evan	C	NJN	600
1142	Jones, Jumaine	C	PHI	600
1143	Perdue, Will	C	SAS	600
1144	Bailey, Thurl	C	UTH	590
1145	Anstey, Chris	C	DAL	570
1146	Wennington, Bill	C	CHI	550
1147	Dudley, Chris	C	NYK	510
1148	Aluma, Peter	C	SAC	500
1149	Benjamin, Benoit	C	PHI	500
1150	Booth, Calvin	C	WAS	500
1151	Bramlet, A.J.	C	CLE	500
1152	Causwell, Duane	C	MIA	500
1153	Clark, Keon	C	DEN	500
1154	Conlon, Marty	C	MIA	500
1155	Cunningham, Will	C	NJN	500
1156	Davis, Terry	C	WAS	500
1157	Elson, Francisco	C	DEN	500
1158	Foster, Greg	C	UTH	500
1159	Fuller, Todd	C	UTH	500
1160	James, Jerome	C	SAC	500
1161	Kerner, Jonathan	C	ORL	500
1162	Kleine, Joe	C	PHO	500
1163	Lang, Andrew	C	CHI	500
1164	Mccoy, Jelani	C	SEA	500
1165	Mcilvaine, Jim	C	NJN	500
1166	Meyer, Loren	C	DEN	500
1167	Miller, Oliver	C	SAC	500
1168	Mohammed, Nazr	C	PHI	500
1169	Moore, Mikki	C	DET	500
1170	Riley, Eric	C	BOS	500
1171	Roberts, Stanley	C	HOU	500
1172	Rooks, Sean	C	LAL	500
1173	Schayes, Danny	C	ORL	500
1174	Schintzius, Dwayne	C	BOS	500
1175	Shackleford, Charles	C	CHA	500
1176	Shaw, Casey	C	PHI	500
1177	Spencer, Felton	C	GSW	500
1178	Stepania, Vladimir	C	SEA	500
1179	Stewart, Michael	C	TOR	500
1180	Vrankovic, Stojko	C	LAC	500
1181	Washington, Tyrone	C	HOU	500
1182	West, Mark	C	ATL	500
1183	Williams, Herb	C	NYK	500
1184	Williams, Scott	C	MIL	500
1185	Winter, Trevor	C	MIN	500
1186	Young, Tim	C	GSW	500
FORWARDS				
2100	Pippen, Scottie	F	HOU	4190
2101	Duncan, Tim	F	SAS	3850
2102	Abdur-rahim, Shareef	F	VAN	3320
2103	Mcdyess, Antonio	F	DEN	3250
2104	Garnett, Kevin	F	MIN	3220
2105	Hill, Grant	F	DET	3170
2106	Malone, Karl	F	UTH	3140
2107	Walker, Antoine	F	BOS	3090
2108	Kukoc, Toni	F	CHI	3000
2109	Pierce, Paul	F	BOS	2940
2110	Mason, Anthony	F	CHA	2900
2111	Webber, Chris	F	SAC	2850
2112	Van Horn, Keith	F	NJN	2840
2113	Schrempf, Detlef	F	SEA	2820
2114	Robinson, Cliff	F	PHO	2780
2115	Kemp, Shawn	F	CLE	2750
2116	Baker, Vin	F	SEA	2720
2117	Ratliff, Theo	F	PHI	2650
2118	Johnson, Larry	F	NYK	2610
2119	Mullin, Chris	F	IND	2580
2120	Russell, Bryon	F	UTH	2550
2121	Robinson, Glenn	F	MIL	2460
2122	Gugliotta, Tom	F	PHO	2450
2123	Barkley, Charles	F	HOU	2420
2124	Smith, Joe	F	MIN	2410
2125	Williams, Walt	F	POR	2410
2126	Camby, Marcus	F	NYK	2340
2127	Rice, Glen	F	LAL	2270
2128	Mcgrady, Tracy	F	TOR	2200
2129	Piatkowski, Eric	F	LAC	2160
2130	Stojakovic, Predrag	F	SAC	2140
2131	Elliott, Sean	F	SAS	2060
2132	Marshall, Donyell	F	GSW	1960
2133	Murray, Lamond	F	LAC	1950
2134	Grant, Brian	F	POR	1930
2135	Ellis, Dale	F	ORL	1900
2136	Trent, Gary	F	DAL	1900
2137	Grant, Horace	F	SEA	1850
2138	Mercer, Ron	F	BOS	1850
2139	Mills, Chris	F	GSW	1830
2140	Wallace, Ben	F	WAS	1830
2141	Mack, Sam	F	HOU	1820
2142	Wallace, Rasheed	F	POR	1810
2143	Howard, Juwan	F	WAS	1760
2144	Henderson, Alan	F	ATL	1750
2145	Oakley, Charles	F	TOR	1750
2146	Mccloud, George	F	PHO	1720
2147	Laettner, Christian	F	DET	1710
2148	Coleman, Derrick	F	CHA	1660
2149	Taylor, Maurice	F	LAC	1650
2150	Nesby, Tyrone	F	LAC	1640
2151	Person, Chuck	F	CHA	1630
2152	Mashburn, Jamal	F	MIA	1620
2153	Brown, Pj	F	MIA	1610
2154	Mitchell, Sam	F	MIN	1610
2155	Brand, Elton	F	CHI	1500
2156	Outlaw, Bo	F	ORL	1500
2157	Long, Grant	F	ATL	1490
2158	Ceballos, Cedric	F	DAL	1470
2159	Corbin, Tyrone	F	ATL	1460
2160	Lynch, George	F	PHI	1460
2161	Davis, Dale	F	IND	1430
2162	Vaught, Loy	F	DET	1430
2163	Manning, Danny	F	PHO	1400
2164	Odom, Lamar	F	LAC	1400
2165	Rodman, Dennis	F	FA	1400
2166	Fox, Rick	F	LAL	1390
2167	Davis, Antonio	F	IND	1360
2168	Fortson, Danny	F	DEN	1350
2169	Szczerbiak, Wally	F	MIN	1350
2170	Rogers, Rodney	F	LAC	1320
2171	Bender, Jonathan	F	TOR	1300
2172	Hamilton, Richard	F	WAS	1300
2173	Horry, Robert	F	LAL	1300
2174	Burrell, Scott	F	NJN	1270
2175	Ferry, Danny	F	CLE	1260
2176	Simpkins, Dickey	F	CHI	1260
2177	Henderson, Cedric	F	CLE	1250
2178	Perkins, Sam	F	IND	1250
2179	Williams, Jerome	F	DET	1220
2180	Ellis, Laphonso	F	ATL	1210
2181	Marion, Shawn	F	PHO	1200
2182	Nowitzki, Dirk	F	DAL	1200
2183	Walker, Samaki	F	DAL	1160
2184	Anderson, Shandon	F	UTH	1140
2185	Massenburg, Tony	F	VAN	1130
2186	Wilkins, Dominique	F	FA	1120
2187	Thomas, Tim	F	MIL	1100
2188	Jamison, Antawn	F	GSW	1070
2189	Murray, Tracy	F	WAS	1070
2190	Smith, Michael	F	VAN	1060
2191	Williamson, Corliss	F	SAC	1060
2192	Brown, Chucky	F	CHA	1050
2193	Wallace, John	F	TOR	1030
2194	Wright, Lorenzen	F	LAC	1030
2195	Augmon, Stacey	F	POR	1020
2196	Artest, Ron	F	CHI	1000
2197	Chilcutt, Pete	F	VAN	1000
2198	Maggette, Cory	F	ORL	1000
2199	Newman, Johnny	F	CLE	990
2200	Traylor, Robert	F	MIL	990
2201	Funderburke, L.	F	SAC	970
2202	Taylor, Johnny	F	DEN	950
2203	Cheaney, Calbert	F	WAS	940
2204	Harpring, Matt	F	ORL	940
2205	Cummings, Terry	F	GSW	930
2206	Weatherspoon, C.	F	MIA	930
2207	Bowdler, Cal	F	ATL	900
2208	Lewis, Quincy	F	UTH	900
2209	Thomas, Kurt	F	NYK	880
2210	Reid, Jr	F	LAL	870
2211	Rose, Malik	F	SAS	850
2212	Morris, Chris	F	PHO	830
2213	David, Kornel	F	CHI	800
2214	Foster, Jeff	F	IND	800
2215	Hill, Tyrone	F	PHI	790
2216	Reid, Don	F	DET	790
2217	Williams, Eric	F	DEN	790
2218	Feick, Jamie	F	NJN	770
2219	Bryant, Mark	F	CHI	750
2220	Mccarty, Walter	F	BOS	750
2221	Thomas, Kenny	F	HOU	750
2222	Bullard, Matt	F	HOU	720
2223	Gilliam, Armon	F	MIL	700
2224	Green, A.C.	F	DAL	700
2225	Harrington, Othella	F	HOU	700
2226	Davis, Ricky	F	CHA	630
2227	James, Tim	F	MIA	600
2228	Kersey, Jerome	F	SAS	600
2229	Kirilenko, Andrei	F	UTH	600
2230	Padgett, Scott	F	UTH	600
2231	Smith, Leon	F	DAL	600
2232	Williams, Aaron	F	SEA	580
2233	Keefe, Adam	F	UTH	560
2234	Crawford, Chris	F	ATL	540
2235	Strong, Derek	F	ORL	510
2236	Askins, Keith	F	MIA	500
2237	Avent, Anthony	F	UTH	500
2238	Bennett, Mario	F	CHI	500
2239	Blount, Corie	F	CLE	500
2240	Bohannon, Etdrick	F	WAS	500
2241	Booth, Keith	F	CHI	500
2242	Bowen, Bruce	F	BOS	500
2243	Caffey, Jason	F	GSW	500
2244	Carr, Antoine	F	HOU	500
2245	Croshere, Austin	F	IND	500
2246	Curley, Bill	F	MIN	500
2247	Davis, Ben	F	NYK	500
2248	Edwards, Blue	F	MIA	500
2249	Ekezie, Obinna	F	VAN	500

The Sporting News

1999 FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

OFFICIAL ROSTER

All Salaries are in 000's

2250	Evans, Brian	F	MIN	500
2251	Ferrell, Duane	F	ATL	500
2252	Garrity, Pat	F	PHO	500
2253	Gatling, Chris	F	MIL	500
2254	Grant, Harvey	F	PHI	500
2255	Hammonds, Tom	F	MIN	500
2256	Harrington, Al	F	IND	500
2257	Henderson, J.r.	F	VAN	500
2258	Herrera, Carl	F	DEN	500
2259	Hill, Rico	F	LAC	500
2260	Honeycutt, Jerald	F	PHI	500
2261	Jackson, Randell	F	WAS	500
2262	Jacobson, Sam	F	LAL	500
2263	Jones, Popeye	F	BOS	500
2264	King, Chris	F	UTH	500
2265	King, Gerard	F	SAS	500
2266	Knight, Travis	F	LAL	500
2267	Lang, Antonio	F	CLE	500
2268	Lewis, Rashard	F	SEA	500
2269	Maclean, Don	F	ORL	500
2270	Mahorn, Rick	F	PHI	500
2271	Marks, Sean	F	TOR	500
2272	Mckey, Derrick	F	IND	500
2273	Mcleod, Roshown	F	ATL	500
2274	Miller, Anthony	F	HOU	500
2275	Mills, Terry	F	MIA	500
2276	Nailon, Lee	F	CHA	500
2277	Ndiaye, Makhtar	F	VAN	500
2278	Oneal, Jermaine	F	POR	500
2279	Owens, Billy	F	ORL	500
2280	Patterson, Andrae	F	MIN	500
2281	Patterson, Ruben	F	LAL	500
2282	Pollard, Scot	F	SAC	500
2283	Pope, Mark	F	IND	500
2284	Rhodes, Rodrick	F	VAN	500
2285	Rogers, Carlos	F	POR	500
2286	Ruffin, Michael	F	CHI	500
2287	Sasser, Jason	F	VAN	500
2288	Skinner, Brian	F	LAC	500
2289	Slater, Reggie	F	TOR	500
2290	Stack, Ryan	F	CLE	500
2291	Strickland, Mark	F	MIA	500
2292	Thomas, John	F	TOR	500
2293	Vaughn, David	F	NJN	500
2294	Watson, Jamie	F	MIA	500
2295	Wells, Bonzi	F	POR	500
2296	White, Jahidi	F	WAS	500
2297	Williams, Brandon	F	SAS	500
2298	Williams, Monty	F	DEN	500
2299	Williams, Travis	F	CHA	500
2300	Wolf, Joe	F	CHA	500
2301	Young, Korleone	F	DET	500

GUARDS

3100	Carter, Vince	G	TOR	4160
3101	Kidd, Jason	G	PHO	3820
3102	Bryant, Kobe	G	LAL	3510
3103	Payton, Gary	G	SEA	3490
3104	Jones, Eddie	G	CHA	3450
3105	Iverson, Allen	G	PHI	3390
3106	Christie, Doug	G	TOR	3060
3107	Hardaway, Anfernee	G	ORL	2930
3108	Finley, Michael	G	DAL	2800
3109	Marbury, Stephon	G	NJN	2680
3110	Anderson, Nick	G	ORL	2660
3111	Miller, Reggie	G	IND	2610
3112	Stoudamire, Damon	G	POR	2610
3113	Hardaway, Tim	G	MIA	2560
3114	Blaylock, Mookie	G	GSW	2540
3115	Kittles, Kerry	G	NJN	2520
3116	Houston, Allan	G	NYK	2500
3117	Armstrong, Darrell	G	ORL	2470
3118	Stockton, John	G	UTH	2460
3119	Richmond, Mitch	G	WAS	2450
3120	Smith, Steve	G	ATL	2410
3121	Rider, Isaiah	G	POR	2330
3122	Harper, Ron	G	CHI	2270
3123	Allen, Ray	G	MIL	2250
3124	Brandon, Terrell	G	MIN	2230
3125	Strickland, Rod	G	WAS	2220
3126	Billups, Chauncey	G	DEN	2190
3127	Williams, Jason	G	SAC	2160
3128	Sprewell, Latrell	G	NYK	2150
3129	Van Exel, Nick	G	DEN	2130
3130	Brown, Dee	G	TOR	2110
3131	Hughes, Larry	G	PHI	2010
3132	Starks, John	G	GSW	1950
3133	Hornacek, Jeff	G	UTH	1920
3134	Stackhouse, Jerry	G	DET	1920
3135	Johnson, Avery	G	SAS	1910
3136	Person, Wesley	G	CLE	1900
3137	Mobley, Cuttino	G	HOU	1870
3138	Gill, Kendall	G	NJN	1860
3139	Anderson, Kenny	G	BOS	1850
3140	Phills, Bobby	G	CHA	1850
3141	Porter, Terry	G	MIA	1840
3142	Hunter, Lindsey	G	DET	1820
3143	Knight, Brevin	G	CLE	1820
3144	Ward, Charlie	G	NYK	1780
3145	Abdul-wahad, Tariq	G	SAC	1730
3146	Hawkins, Hersey	G	SEA	1720
3147	Wesley, David	G	CHA	1720
3148	Jackson, Mark	G	IND	1650
3149	Cassell, Sam	G	MIL	1630
3150	Barros, Dana	G	BOS	1590
3151	Bibby, Mike	G	VAN	1570
3152	Nash, Steve	G	DAL	1560
3153	Chapman, Rex	G	PHO	1550
3154	Elie, Mario	G	SAS	1550
3155	Majerle, Dan	G	MIA	1540
3156	Rose, Jalen	G	IND	1500
3157	Barry, Brent	G	CHI	1490
3158	Francis, Steve	G	VAN	1450
3159	Childs, Chris	G	NYK	1420
3160	Davis, Baron	G	CHA	1400
3161	Dickerson, Michael	G	HOU	1400
3162	Buechler, Jud	G	DET	1390
3163	Fisher, Derek	G	LAL	1350
3164	Snow, Eric	G	PHI	1340
3165	Stith, Bryant	G	DEN	1300
3166	Anderson, Derek	G	CLE	1280
3167	Scott, Dennis	G	MIN	1250
3168	Coles, Bimbo	G	ATL	1230
3169	Jackson, Jimmy	G	POR	1230
3170	Maxwell, Vernon	G	SAC	1230
3171	Jackson, Jaren	G	SAS	1220
3172	Jackson, Bobby	G	MIN	1200
3173	Miller, Andre	G	CLE	1200
3174	Curry, Dell	G	MIL	1190
3175	Anthony, Greg	G	POR	1170
3176	Lopez, Felipe	G	VAN	1160
3177	Brown, Randy	G	CHI	1110
3178	Harper, Derek	G	LAL	1110
3179	Pack, Robert	G	DAL	1100
3180	Barry, Jon	G	SAC	1090
3181	Davis, Hubert	G	DAL	1080
3182	Sura, Bob	G	CLE	1070
3183	Langdon, Trajan	G	CLE	1050
3184	Terry, Jason	G	ATL	1050
3185	Washington, Eric	G	DEN	1040
3186	Avery, William	G	MIN	1000
3187	Williams, Alvin	G	TOR	1000
3188	Posey, James	G	DEN	950
3189	Peeler, Anthony	G	MIN	940
3190	Best, Travis	G	IND	910
3191	Martin, Darrick	G	LAC	880
3192	Del Negro, Vinny	G	MIL	860
3193	Glover, Dion	G	ATL	850
3194	Lenard, Voshon	G	MIA	850
3195	Mckie, Aaron	G	PHI	820
3196	Strickland, Erick	G	DAL	820
3197	Price, Brent	G	HOU	790
3198	Workman, Haywoode	G	MIL	760
3199	Maloney, Matt	G	HOU	750
3200	Daniels, Antonio	G	SAS	740
3201	Johnson, Anthony	G	ATL	720
3202	Delk, Tony	G	GSW	700
3203	Kerr, Steve	G	SAS	680
3204	Sealy, Malik	G	MIN	660
3205	Curry, Michael	G	MIL	650
3206	Robinson, James	G	MIN	640
3207	Harris, Lucious	G	NJN	630
3208	Eisley, Howard	G	UTH	620
3209	Larue, Rusty	G	CHI	620
3210	Minor, Greg	G	BOS	620
3211	Bogues, Tyrone	G	GSW	610
3212	Cummings, Vonteego	G	GSW	600
3213	George, Devean	G	LAK	600
3214	Hoiberg, Fred	G	IND	600
3215	Wheat, Dejuan	G	VAN	580
3216	Whitney, Chris	G	WAS	580
3217	Douglas, Sherman	G	LAC	560
3218	Alexander, Cory	G	DEN	550
3219	Smith, Charles	G	LAC	550
3220	Carr, Chris	G	NJN	510
3221	Armstrong, Bj	G	ORL	500
3222	Bailey, Toby	G	PHO	500
3223	Baker, Mark	G	TOR	500
3224	Barry, Drew	G	SEA	500
3225	Beck, Corey	G	CHA	500
3226	Benjamin, Corey	G	CHI	500
3227	Boykins, Earl	G	CLE	500
3228	Brown, Gerald	G	PHO	500
3229	Brunson, Rick	G	NYK	500
3230	Bullock, Louis	G	MIN	500
3231	Butler, Mitchell	G	CLE	500
3232	Carr, Cory	G	CHI	500
3233	Celestand, John	G	LAK	500
3234	Clack, Kris	G	BOS	500
3235	Cotton, James	G	SEA	500
3236	Crotty, John	G	SEA	500
3237	Davis, Mark	G	MIA	500
3238	Dehere, Terry	G	VAN	500
3239	Drew, Bryce	G	HOU	500
3240	Garnett, Marlon	G	BOS	500
3241	Gaze, Andrew	G	SAS	500
3242	Grant, Gary	G	POR	500
3243	Gray, Ed	G	ATL	500
3244	Green, Litterial	G	CLE	500
3245	Henson, Steve	G	DET	500
3246	Herren, Chris	G	DEN	500
3247	Johnson, Eddie	G	HOU	500
3248	Jones, Charles	G	CHI	500
3249	Jones, Damon	G	BOS	500
3250	Jordan, Adonis	G	MIL	500
3251	Jordan, Reggie	G	MIN	500
3252	Knight, Negele	G	TOR	500
3253	Legler, Tim	G	WAS	500
3254	Levett, Melvin	G	DET	500
3255	Lue, Tyronn	G	LAL	500
3256	Macon, Mark	G	DET	500
3257	Mayberry, Lee	G	VAN	500
3258	Mccarty, Kelly	G	DEN	500
3259	Milic, Marko	G	PHO	500
3260	Murdock, Eric	G	NJN	500
3261	Norris, Moochie	G	SEA	500
3262	O'bannon, Charles	G	DET	500
3263	Ollie, Kevin	G	ORL	500
3264	Overton, Doug	G	PHI	500
3265	Parker, Anthony	G	PHI	500
3266	Perry, Elliot	G	NJN	500
3267	Profit, Laron	G	ORL	500
3268	Recasner, Eldridge	G	CHA	500
3269	Reeves, Khalid	G	DET	500
3270	Respert, Shawn	G	PHO	500
3271	Richardson, Pooh	G	LAC	500
3272	Sheppard, Jeff	G	ATL	500
3273	Simon, Miles	G	ORL	500
3274	Vaughn, Jacque	G	UTH	500
3275	Walters, Rex	G	MIA	500
3276	West, Doug	G	VAN	500
3277	Wheeler, Tyson	G	DEN	500
3278	Wilkins, Gerald	G	FA	500
3279	Williams, Michael	G	TOR	500
3280	Williams, Sham.	G	ATL	500
3281	Wingate, David	G	NYK	500

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS CONTINUED.

The Sporting News 1999 Fantasy Basketball Challenge Official Rules

1999 THE SPORTING NEWS FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR PERSONS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PUERTO RICO, AND CANADA AND THESE OFFICIAL RULES ARE INTENDED FOR VIEWING ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PUERTO RICO, AND CANADA. PERSONS RESIDING OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES, PUERTO RICO, OR CANADA ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY 1999 THE SPORTING NEWS FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE.

THIS IS A GAME OF SKILL. THE OBJECTIVE SCORING CRITERIA SET FORTH HEREIN SHALL BE USED TO DETERMINE WINNERS.

THE SPORTING NEWS AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM

Calling TSN Fantasy Sports gives you access to either our Fantasy Sports Consultants or the Interactive Commissioner phone system. You may call 1-800-789-8980 to trade players. All trades prior to November 2, 1999 at 5:30 CT are free of charge. A touch tone phone is required for access to the Interactive Commissioner phone system. Your total team score will be available through the Interactive Commissioner each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. CT starting November 9, 1999.

YOUR 1999 TSN FANTASY SPORTS ACCOUNT

All charges made through the Interactive Commissioner will be charged directly to your credit card on a weekly basis. If you do not have a credit card, you may place money on account (before utilizing any interactive services) by sending a check or money order, payable in advance to TSN Fantasy Challenges, P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX 75014. Please note the team ID number and PIN number on your check or money order. All checks will be credited and will be available for trading within 72 hours of receipt, provided the account has sufficient funds for payment. There will be a $25 fee for any returned checks. You must have either a valid credit card number and expiration date on file or a credit balance in your account to utilize interactive services. If the credit card provided is invalid, expired or a non-working credit card and the account balance is less then $50, Prime/TSN will transfer the account to a "U" status - allowing you to update your credit card with the correct information. If the account is not updated within one week, Prime/TSN will transfer the account to a "D" status - disabling the account until the balance is either paid in full or a valid credit card is provided. No refunds will be made for unused credit in your account, and there shall be no interest earned on such funds. By providing PSI and TSN with your credit card number, you agree to pay for all charges made through the Interactive Commissioner. PSI and TSN reserve the right to suspend all game activity, including report mailings, faxes, Internet access, and trading, for accounts that do not have a valid credit card number and expiration date, or a credit balance. PRIZES WILL ONLY BE AWARDED TO PLAYERS WHOSE ACCOUNTS ARE PAID IN FULL. Players are not required to open an account to play and to compete for prizes.

INTERACTIVE INFORMATION

You may, for a fee set forth in the TRADING PLAYERS section, trade players weekly. The first weekly reports will be mailed the week of November 15, 1999. Rosters of the teams in your league, complete with owner's name and team name, will be mailed the weeks of November 29, 1999, January 10, 1999, and February 21, 2000. Services offered through the Interactive Commissioner are optional and are not required to play 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge. No refunds will be made for Interactive Commissioner charges. The Interactive Commissioner is a trademark of PSI, all rights reserved.

INTERNET SITE - games.sportingnews.com/nba

All players who have access to the Interactive Commissioner (i.e., all players who open a TSN Fantasy Sports account) may also access The Sporting News Internet website. This site will provide you all of the same game play options and information as the telephone Interactive Commissioner. In addition, you will be able to find reports and information that are not available on the telephone Interactive Commissioner, such as lists of weekly winners, national leaders, and additional player statistics. Our site is best viewed with Netscape 4.0 or higher, Internet Explorer 4.0, or the 32 bit version of AOL for Windows 95. To ensure you have the correct roster in place, confirm your new roster when you have completed trading. A confirmation number will appear at the top of the screen when your trades have been confirmed. If you exit the web site without confirming your trades, none of the trades will be accepted. Internet access is not required to play the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge. If you bookmark our web site, we advise you to bookmark the home page. This page is used to communicate important game information to our players. PSI and TSN are not responsible if the Internet portion of the game is not capable of running as planned for any reason, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of PSI and TSN which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this game. PSI and TSN assume no responsibility for any error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation, faulty transmission or communication, line failure, theft, destruction, or unauthorized access to game activities conducted or information transmitted through the Internet or the telephone. PSI and TSN are not responsible for any problem or technical malfunction of any telephone network, telephone line, computer on-line system, server, equipment, or software. PSI and TSN are not responsible for the failure of any e-mail or entry or trade to be applied to a player's account due to technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any web site, phone or fax lines, or any combination thereof. PSI and TSN are not responsible for any injury or damage to a player's computer related to or resulting from participation in this game.

PRIZES AND PUBLICITY

Prizes are not transferable. IF YOU MAINTAIN A TSN FANTASY SPORTS ACCOUNT, YOU MUST PAY YOUR ACCOUNT IN FULL IN ORDER TO COMPETE FOR AND RECEIVE PRIZES. BASED ON CANADIAN SWEEPSTAKES LAWS CANADIAN WINNERS MAY BE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ADDITIONAL SKILL QUESTIONS TO WIN ANY PRIZE. Winners are responsible for all applicable taxes on prizes received. By participating, you agree that PSI and TSN may use your name, image, likeness and hometown for publicity and advertising purposes without additional compensation, except where prohibited by law. Chances of winning are dependent on the total number of entries received and the skill used in choosing your players. No purchase necessary to win. No minimum number of entries is required to hold this contest. Number of expected entries based on past experience is 7500. Organizers and sponsors are not responsible for any damages, loss, injury, or expenses not specified herein incurred by a contestant as a result of enrolling, playing, or winning.

End of season prizes are awarded based on a team's total cumulative score. Overall Prizes: Grand Prize - $15,000 cash, Second place - $5,000 cash, Third place - $2,500 cash, Fourth place - $1,000 cash, Fifth place - $500 cash, Sixth place through tenth place - $200 cash, Eleventh place through twenty-fifth place - $100 cash. Division Prizes (end of season): First Place - $1,000 cash, Second Place - $ 500 cash, Third Place - $300 cash, Fourth Place - $200 cash, Fifth Place - $100 cash. League Prizes (end of season): First place - $500 cash, Second place - $250 cash, Third place - $100 cash, Fourth place - $75, Fifth place - $50. Weekly prizes are awarded based on the highest point totals each week (determined on overall basis): First place - $250. No prizes will be awarded for the first week. Ties for the end of season prizes will be broken by the highest single week score, 2nd highest single weekly score, etc., until the tie is broken. $100 is awarded to the "Game Within a Game" trivia contest winner each week. Highest weekly score for the week in question will be the tie breaker. Cash prizes will be paid on or about May 19, 1999. All winners of prize value of $600 or above will receive a Federal 1099 form showing the value of the prize awarded and, if requested by PSI and TSN, will be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and waiver of liability and other documents prior to receiving their prize. Any ties for end of season prizes not resolved by the means stated above shall be resolved with a trivia contest tie breaker. All winners will be notified by U.S. Mail. Prize notifications returned as undeliverable will be awarded to the next highest finisher. A complete list of winners of Overall, Division, and League prizes may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped (U.S. postage only) envelope to: TSN Fantasy Challenges, 100 E. Royal Lane Suite 150, Irving, TX 75039, or P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX. 75014 (WA residents only may omit return stamp).

ELIGIBILITY

Employees of PSI and TSN (and their families) and PSI's and TSN's agents, contractors, suppliers, and distributors (and their respective families), as well as employees of any hotel, venue, or prize provider participating in this contest, (and their respective families) are not eligible. This contest is open only to residents of the United States of America, Puerto Rico, and Canada. THIS CONTEST IS SUBJECT TO ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS. You must be 18 years or older to participate. THIS CONTEST IS VOID WHERE OTHERWISE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW.

UNFORESEEN EVENTS

If for any reason (including, but not limited to, strikes, lock-outs, acts of God, technical difficulties, governmental intervention, and other events not within the reasonable control of PSI and TSN) the National Basketball Association experiences a work stoppage and/or PSI and TSN cannot, in their business judgment, reasonably continue the contest, then the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge will not resume until both the National Basketball Association resumes its 1999 schedule and PSI and TSN resume normal business, if ever. If the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge does not resume before April 19,1999, and less than two months of the 1999 National Basketball Association season have been completed, all transaction fees will be refunded and no prizes will be awarded. If the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge does not resume before April 19, 1999, and two months of the National Basketball Association 1999 schedule have been completed, then there shall be no refunds and all end of season prizes will be awarded as if the 1999 National Basketball Association regular season ended on the day the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge play stopped.

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY NO ENTRY FEE NECESSARY

A free alternative entry can be obtained by sending a letter sized, self addressed stamped (U.S. postage only) envelope to 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge, P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX 75014 (WA residents only may omit return stamp). Alternative entries are eligible for prizes but will not be allowed to use any 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge services available through PSI and TSN or the Internet. Trading for alternative entries can be done by placing all necessary details of trades (player names and ID numbers to drop and add, etc.) in a letter sized envelope and sending it to 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge, Alternative Entry Trades, P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX 75014. Alternative entry trades must be received by Thursday of each week to be processed and valid for the immediately following week of play. PSI and TSN reserve the right to disqualify any alternative entry trades that arrive late, or are received with insufficient, incorrect or illegible information (e.g., insufficient player name or ID number). Requests for alternative entries must be received by PSI and TSN by October 2, 1999. Alternative entry team selection forms must be returned to PSI and TSN by November 1, 1999. Limit one alternative entry per household.

GENERAL

All participants who officially register, receive confirmation/login and password for The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge acknowledges that he/she has reviewed and accepted the Official Rules. By registering and entering into the contest, participants accept the rules as official and will adhere to the rules set forth. Participants who register via the Internet and/or Live Commissioner or Interactive Commissioner will be offered the rules either on the web site at games.sportingnews.com/nba or via live commissioner. Participants will have 72 hours to read, review and accept the rules as official before requesting refund. All dollar amounts specified herein are in U.S. dollars. All fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Any disputes must be written and mailed to TSN Fantasy Sports Challenges, P.O. Box 142916, Irving, TX 75014. No phone calls regarding disputes will be accepted. All issues or disputes, including but not limited to league business, player trades, scoring, infractions of these rules and disputes among franchise owners, will be reviewed and settled by TSN advisory board, whose decisions shall be final. Any participant is entitled to cancel registration in the game and have all monies refunded up to 30 days from the beginning of the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge. Except as set forth in the preceding sentence, any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this contest, whether asserted in contract, tort, statute, or otherwise (including whether or not such controversies or claims are arbitrable) shall be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Arbitration Rules then in effect. All hearings and proceedings shall take place in Houston, Harris County, Texas, using Texas law (excluding conflict of law rules), and without regard to the Texas General Arbitration Act or the Federal Arbitration Act. PSI and TSN shall not be liable for any consequential, punitive or exemplary damages. If any provision of these rules should ever be held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalid or unenforceable provision(s) shall be revised by PSI and TSN and shall not affect any other provisions of these rules, and such other provisions shall continue in full force and effect. By participating in or entering 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge, you (i) acknowledge acceptance of these rules and agree to adhere to and be bound by them, (ii) release, hold harmless, and waive any rights to recovery against PSI and TSN and their sponsors, suppliers, contractors, officers, employees, partners, owners, and agents from and against any claims, expenses, damages, and/or liability incurred by you or your representatives in connection with or related to the operation of, or your participation in, the 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge, and (iii) agree to hold PSI and TSN harmless from all typographical, statistical, transaction, and communication errors or omissions, and PSI and TSN reserve the right to make corrections to game books and other material and information to correct such errors or omissions. PSI and TSN specifically disclaim and negate any representation or warranty (whether express or implied) in connection with the game and/or your participation in it. PSI and TSN reserve the right to disqualify any participant for suspected cheating or non-adherence to these Official Rules. Disqualified participants' sole remedy shall be limited to a refund of money paid to PSI and TSN in connection with playing 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge. Prizes awarded in 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge may be subject to legal restrictions. Participants agree that in the event the award of prizes to winners of 1999 The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge is challenged by a legal authority, PSI has the sole right to determine whether or not to award such prizes and whether or not to refund previous payments made by the participant. PSI reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the game and rules as the season progresses. PSI is a licensee of The Sporting News, a division of Times Mirror, and is solely responsible for administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of The Sporting News Fantasy Basketball Challenge. PSI's principal office's street address is 100 E. Royal Lane Suite 150, Irving, TX 75039.

To register today, fill out the registration form on our two page ad located in the front of this issue.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL survey



"Yo, it's Fly. The boss wants to know what you think about college basketball and this yearbook. Fly's talkin' about the dish on the NCAA hoopsters from "The Bible of Sports." Tell *The Sporting News* what you think and ya get a shot at some great *ssstuff*."

"Get goin'. I'll see you in the sports pages."

1. Going into the 1999-2000 season, which Division I-A conference do you think is strongest?
◇ ACC ◇ Pac-10 ◇ Big Ten
◇ SEC ◇ Big East ◇ Big 12
◇ Conference USA ◇ WAC

2. Should college athletes be paid?
◇ Yes ◇ No

3. Which is more exciting to you?
◇ March Madness ◇ NBA playoffs

4. Do you think regular-season results are important enough in the overall scheme of college basketball?
◇ Yes ◇ No

5. Do you approve of the rule that allows college players to declare for the NBA draft and return to school if they aren't picked as high as they'd like?
◇ Yes ◇ No

6. Which is more exciting to you, a three-pointer or a dunk?
◇ three-pointer ◇ dunk

7. Should the three-point line be moved farther back?
◇ Yes ◇ No

8. Do you prefer professional or college basketball?
◇ pro ◇ college

9. If you attended college, do you actively support your school's basketball team by attending games and/or donating money to the athletic department?
◇ Yes ◇ No

10. Would you like to see more coverage of the NAIA?
◇ Yes ◇ No

11. How often do you refer to The Sporting News College Basketball yearbook throughout the season?
◇ weekly ◇ monthly
◇ constantly

12. Is this your first purchase of The Sporting News College Basketball yearbook?
◇ Yes ◇ No

12a. If not, how many times have you bought?
◇ 1 ◇ 2-3 ◇ 4-5 ◇ 5-10 ◇ more than 10

13. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages	Fewer pages	Perfect as is	
____	____	____	Feature articles on players, issues, etc.
____	____	____	Conference previews
____	____	____	Team charts
____	____	____	Scouting the nation and conferences
____	____	____	Predictions (conference races, All- America teams, etc.)
____	____	____	Women's basketball

14. Anything else we should change to improve The Sporting News College Basketball yearbook?

_____

15. How many other people read your copy of The Sporting News College Basketball yearbook?
◇ 0 ◇ 1 ◇ 2 ◇ 3 ◇ 4-5
◇ 6-10 ◇ 11-15

Please turn the page ☛

16. What influenced you to buy The Sporting News College Basketball yearbook? (Check all that apply.)
◇ overall editorial content
◇ graphic presentation ◇ cover ◇ price ◇ name recognition

17. Ideally, when would you like to buy the College Basketball yearbook?
◇ Oct. 1 ◇ Oct. 15 ◇ Nov. 1
◇ Nov. 15

18. Which other yearbooks from The Sporting News do you read or look through? (Check all that apply.)
◇ College Football ◇ Fantasy Football
◇ Pro Football ◇ Racing
◇ Baseball ◇ Fantasy Baseball
◇ Pro Basketball ◇ Hockey

19. If it were possible to buy all nine of The Sporting News yearbooks on a subscription basis, would you do so?
◇ Yes ◇ No

20. Do you read yearbooks from other companies?
◇ Yes ◇ No

20a. If yes, which ones?
◇ Athlon
◇ Dick Vitale's ◇ Lindy's
◇ Preview ◇ Street & Smith's
◇ other _____

21. Do you buy The Sporting News weekly magazine?
◇ Yes ◇ No

21a. If yes, are you a subscriber?
◇ Yes ◇ No

21b. How would you rate the college basketball coverage?
◇ excellent ◇ very good ◇ good ◇ average ◇ below average

22. Have you purchased anything through the mail?
◇ Yes ◇ No

23. Do you play sports?
◇ Yes ◇ No

23a. If yes, what sports do you play?
◇ football ◇ golf
◇ baseball ◇ tennis
◇ softball ◇ running
◇ basketball ◇ cycling
◇ hockey ◇ hiking/walking
◇ soccer ◇ rollerblading
◇ other _____

24. Do you own a personal computer?
◇ Yes ◇ No

25. Do you subscribe to an online service?
◇ Yes ◇ No

25a. Have you ever seen or used the award-winning TSN website www.sportingnews.com?
◇ Yes ◇ No

26. Do you play in a Rotisserie or other fantasy league?
◇ Yes ◇ No
◇ baseball ◇ football
◇ basketball ◇ hockey ◇ golf

27. Do you collect trading cards?
◇ Yes ◇ No

27a. If yes, which sports?
◇ baseball ◇ football
◇ basketball ◇ hockey
◇ other _____

27b. Where do you purchase them?
◇ memorabilia store
◇ convenience store
◇ supermarket
◇ mass merchandiser (K-Mart, Bradlees, etc.)
◇ other _____

28. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?
◇ Yes ◇ No

29. How much do you spend a year on sporting goods (clothes and equipment)?
◇ less than $100
◇ $100 to $250
◇ more than $250

30. Will you be buying a new car or truck in the next two years?
◇ Yes ◇ No

31. Do you consider brand names in your purchasing decisions?
◇ Yes ◇ No

32. Have you watched any sporting event on pay-per-view?
◇ Yes ◇ No

32a. Do you have a satellite dish?
◇ Yes ◇ No

32b. If yes, do you purchase any of the various sports packages?
◇ Yes ◇ No

33. How many college basketball games do you attend in a season?
◇ 0 ◇ 1-2 ◇ 3-10
◇ more than 10

34. How far do you live from the home court of the nearest Division I college basketball team?
◇ 0-25 miles ◇ 26-50
◇ more than 50

35. Have you traveled to attend a college game outside your local market?
◇ Yes ◇ No

36. Please check the category that includes your age.
◇ Under 18 ◇ 18-24 ◇ 25-29 ◇ 30-34
◇ 35-44 ◇ 45-54 ◇ 55-64
◇ Over 64

37. Are you...
◇ male? ◇ female?

38. Are you...
◇ married? ◇ single?

39. Did you attend or graduate from college?
◇ Yes ◇ No

40. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1998? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)
◇ Less than $20,000
◇ $20,000-$29,999
◇ $30,000-$39,999
◇ $40,000-$49,999
◇ $50,000-$74,999
◇ $75,000-$99,999
◇ $100,000-$199,999
◇ More than $200,000

This portion is for our records and for your registration for the drawing.
It will be kept CONFIDENTIAL and separate from your sports poll answers.
Please fill in the following information:

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Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

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College Basketball Survey
P.O. Box 1040
Millburn, NJ 07041

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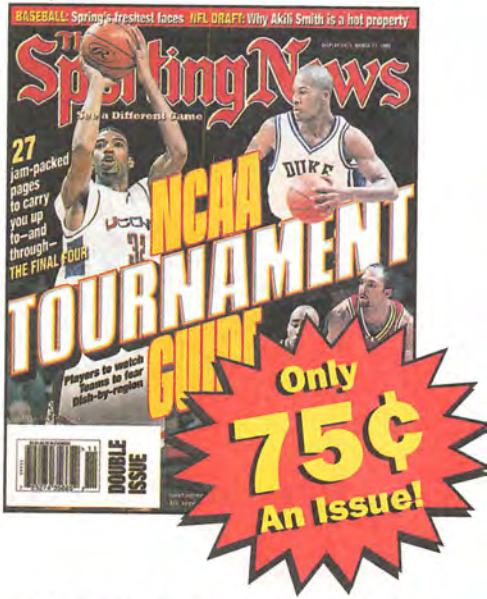
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MAY 1999
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- **Indy 500,** Indianapolis, IN
- **NHL & NBA Playoffs**
- **Baseball Road Trips**

JUNE 1999
- **U.S. Open Golf,** Pinehurst, NC
- **NHL & NBA Playoffs**
- **Baseball Road Trips**

JULY 1999
- **MLB All Star Game,** Boston, MA
- **Football Induction,** Canton, OH
- **Baseball Induction,** Cooperstown, NY
- **Baseball Road Trips**

AUGUST 1999
- **Pro Football Starts**
- **College Football Starts**
- **Baseball Road Trips**

SEPTEMBER 1999
- **U.S. Open Tennis,** Flushing Meadows, NY
- **Ryder Cup,** Brookline, MA
- **MLB Playoffs**
- **Baseball Road Trips**

OCTOBER 1999
- **World Series,** TBA
- **Pro Hockey Starts**

NOVEMBER 1999
- **Pro Basketball Starts**
- **College Basketball Starts**

DECEMBER 1999
- **College Bowl Games**
- **NFL Playoffs**

JANUARY 2000
- **Super Bowl,** Atlanta, GA
- **NHL All Star Game,** Toronto, CAN
- **Rose Bowl,** Pasadena, CA

FEBRUARY 2000
- **NFL Pro Bowl,** Honolulu, HI
- **NBA All Star Game,** Oakland, CA
- **Daytona 500,** Daytona, FL

MARCH 2000
- **Spring Training**
- **NCAA Final Four,** Indianapolis, IN

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